Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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OPINION METER

This week's poll:
Do you intend to vote in the Nov. 23 runoff election?

Let your voice be heard! Go to www.saipantribune.com to cast your vote.

PANDEMIC ALERT STATUS

PHASE 6

As of November 17, 2009

Phase 6: The pandemic phase, is an indication that a global pandemic is underway.

For more information about the H1N1 flu, contact DPH at 236-8797, Monday to Friday, from 8am to 5pm, 234-8950 during after hours, e-mail cnmipheoc@gmail.com, or visit www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/.

Source: CNMI Department of Public Health, World Health Organization

INSIDE

Tragic Search
North Carolina authorities find the body of a missing 5-year-old girl Shaniya Davis.
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A CLOSER LOOK AT CHC

'At the crossroads of a total breakdown'

By JUDE O. MARFIL
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Second part of a series

SPECIAL REPORT

That was how the U.S. Department of the Interior's Office of Inspector General capsulized the health care condition in the insular areas, including the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, in a scathing report last year.

The Inspector General underscored "poor record-keeping system, old equipment, very few supplies and lack of specialist-physicians" as severe problems at the Commonwealth Health Center, the only acute care facility on Saipan.

Opened in November 1986, the government-run CHC was envisioned to be a "state-of-the-art, twentieth century hospital," said Deputy Secretary for Hos-

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JUDE O. MARFIL
Dr. Shirish Balachandra, right, checks out the available supplies at the Emergency Medicine Department.

Lawmakers question some of 76 certified vacant govt positions

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial certified at least 76 vacant positions in government offices between Oct. 26 and Nov. 10, but members of the House of Representatives question whether some of the jobs—including those for an administrative assistant and receptionist—need to be filled at this time.

See LAWMAKERS on Page 4

FBI uncovers cop's alleged extortion racket

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The Federal Bureau of Investigation has arrested a police detective who allegedly extorted money from unlicensed Chinese taxi drivers.

FBI agents arrested Detective Christopher Leon Guerrero on Monday, shortly after the U.S. government filed a complaint charging him with interference with commerce by threats or violence/Hobbs Act extortion under color of official right.

Leon Guerrero

According to FBI special agent Haejun Park, the 43-year-old Leon Guerrero used his official position at the Department of Public Safety to demand and

See FBI on Page 4

TUESDAY MARKET
Eva Cruz, 3, looks on in front of her parents' vegetable stall at the Tuesday Market at the Garapan Fishing Base yesterday. With the Saipan lagoon as its backdrop, the market has become a haven for residents and tourists who prefer fresh fruits, vegetables and other locally prepared food.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Local

'Masses not allowed at veteran's cemetery'

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

The remains of fallen soldiers and a few of their departed relatives may have found solace and serenity at the sprawling CNMI Veteran's Cemetery in Marpi but to some bereaved families, honoring their departed ones is creating discord, mainly due to a "universal policy" that enforces the nondenominational nature of the cemetery.

Some Saipan residents have complained about being barred or prohibited from hosting a Mass of Christian burial for their dead at the cemetery.

CNMI Veteran's Affairs Executive Officer Ruth Coleman clarified, however, that it is not their intent to offend anyone.

"The veteran's cemetery is a cemetery built for men and women who served the armed forces and their families. It is nondenominational because they all come from all walks of life…with different religions. We are not trying to offend anybody," she said.

She said this practice is based on a universal policy for veterans' cemeteries all over the United States.

"It's a regulation that has been set up under Title 38 of the U.S. Code. That's one of the issues that the governor signed on before we got the grant to build our cemetery," she said, adding that the CNMI's practice is not an isolated case.

Coleman said people can come in, pray, and offer flowers and candles for their departed loved ones but they are not allowed to hold a Mass or a blessing for the dead at the gravesite.

"Not everybody is Catholic over there…and we have to respect them," she said, adding that the regulation also mandates that flowers and candles could only be there for three to four days.

During interment services at the veteran's cemetery, families often invite preachers or priests to hold a Mass and bless their departed loved ones. But these services are done prior to the military honors, said Coleman, and are only allowed at the designated "interment shelter" inside the cemetery.

Once the services and military honors are done, she said, only family members of the departed are allowed to bring their loved one to its final resting place.

"It is for many reasons, all of them for the safety of everyone, because the place is new, the ground is shaky, and to prevent anybody from falling into the gravesite," Coleman explained. Anything metallic or material that can break and hurt a person is also not allowed under the same rule.

Coleman hopes the community would be enlightened about the cemetery's burial rites and services.

'All from federal'

Coleman pointed out that since federal monies were used in constructing the site, federal policies and procedures must be complied with.

Saipan Tribune learned that the National Cemetery Administration of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs spent nearly $1.7 million for the cemetery project. Coleman said the whole cemetery project will be constructed in three phases and the $1.7 million money was just for the first phase.

The first phase will allow for the burial of up to 260 individuals. Once the three phases are complete, the cemetery will have a 1,200 to 1,500 capacity.

At present, 25 individuals are buried at the cemetery, of which five are family members and the rest are veterans.

Coleman said they are also looking into building a crematorium on the site, which may provide for an additional 300 to 350 spaces.

The CNMI has yet to apply for the project's second phase, which may take five years to complete.

Retired judge is named to panel in Govendo disciplinary proceedings

The CNMI Supreme Court has appointed retired Superior Court presiding judge Edward M. Manibusan to serve as justice pro tempore and sit on the disciplinary proceedings against Superior Court associate judge Kenneth Govendo.

Acting Chief Justice Alexandro C. Castro named Manibusan justice pro tempore after associate justice John A. Manglona recused himself from the proceedings.

John Manglona is the husband of Superior Court associate judge Ramona V. Manglona, who filed the complaint against Govendo, alleging professional misconduct.

Castro said that Manibusan shall have "full authority to serve as justice pro tempore with respect to this case and shall carry out the duties and power inherent with the appointment."

With the designation as justice pro tempore, Manibusan will join Castro and Chief Justice Miguel Demapan in the panel that will preside over the disciplinary proceedings.

The hearing was originally scheduled for Dec. 17, 2009. The Supreme Court reset the hearing to Jan. 20, 2010.

Govendo had summoned judge Ramona V. Manglona to testify in the disciplinary proceedings.

Retired Guam Superior Court judge Richard Benson found sufficient evidence last month to proceed with the disciplinary proceedings against Govendo for professional misconduct.

Benson noted a pattern in Govendo's use of racially insensitive language in his courtroom.

Benson, however, in the footnote of his findings also stated that Manglona should have used better judgment and refrained from condemning Govendo in her order.

Govendo denied the allegation. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

COMMONWEALTH ELECTION COMMISSION
COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
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PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 1 CMC §9910 (a) and (b), the Commonwealth Election Commission, hereby give notice that the Commonwealth Election Commission will meet at 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday, November 18, 2009, at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multipurpose Center, Susupe, Saipan. Additional information concerning this meeting is available at the Office of the Election Commission, currently located at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multipurpose Center, Susupe, Saipan.

AGENDA

I. Preliminary Matters
a. Roll call
b. Adoption of agenda

II. Executive Director's Report

III. New Business

a. Run-Off Election Procedures

IV. Miscellaneous

V. Adjournment

/s/ FRANCES M. SABLAN
Chairwoman

(The Commission, pursuant to 1 CMC §9912, may vote to meet in executive session to consult legal counsel and discuss personnel matters.)

COE appoints student advisers

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Education Commissioner Dr. Rita A. Sablan has formed a new panel that would serve as her advisers on issues about youths and students' concerns.

The first organizational meeting of the Advisory Youth Panel for the Commissioner of Education was held at Saipan Southern High School yesterday, with over 20 student leaders from junior and high schools. Students from Rota and Tinian schools participated via video teleconference.

The panel's members are student council officers, National Honor Society officers, JROTC cadet command battalion commanders, and Youth Congress members from public schools. Sablan also directed Francine Babauta, the CNMI student representative to the Board of Education, to sit on the panel.

She also extended membership to regular students who are encouraged to become chapter members in their respective schools.

Sablan said the panel was established to advise PSS on issues that affect students in the school community and assured members of her direct involvement and participation in all its activities.

Like the panel of school principals, Sablan said her office will accord the AYP equal importance. "Your voices are equally important with that of our principals. I will listen to your concerns and this panel will serve as my advisers on youth and students affairs," Sablan told the crowd that gathered at the school's cafeteria at 4pm yesterday.

Although AYP was initiated by the COE, Sablan acknowledged that she can't do it alone.

"Leadership is not about the Commissioner of Education, but students, teachers and principals. Leadership is teamwork, and COE cannot do it alone," she said.

Student teacher rep Babauta disclosed some of the activities the panel may explore this school year, such as conducting at least three youth/student summits within the year on all three islands.

Because "bullying" is an issue within schools, the panel will conduct an anti-bullying week within the school year, she said. The panel also hopes to conduct fun and games day in schools.

Sablan also wants the panel to explore and expand the PSS' youth mentoring program to help other students and encouraged them to do service learning activities and volunteerism and organize constructive events for students.

PSS expands laptop program to junior high

The Public School System has expanded its One Laptop Per Child project from the initial plan of just five public high schools on three islands to public middle schools.

Education Commissioner Dr. Rita A. Sablan announced yesterday in the first advisory youth panel assembly that each junior high school student will also be provided one laptop this school year.

Sablan said over 5,000 laptops will be procured by the system for all junior and high school students on Saipan, Rota, and Tinian this school year 2010.

During yesterday's meeting with students, Sablan showed them a sample of the laptop that they will be getting soon.

Saipan Tribune learned that PSS initially eyed nearly $1 million in stimulus funds to buy 3,203 laptop computers for five secondary schools. However, the number of needed laptops has gone up to more than 5,000.

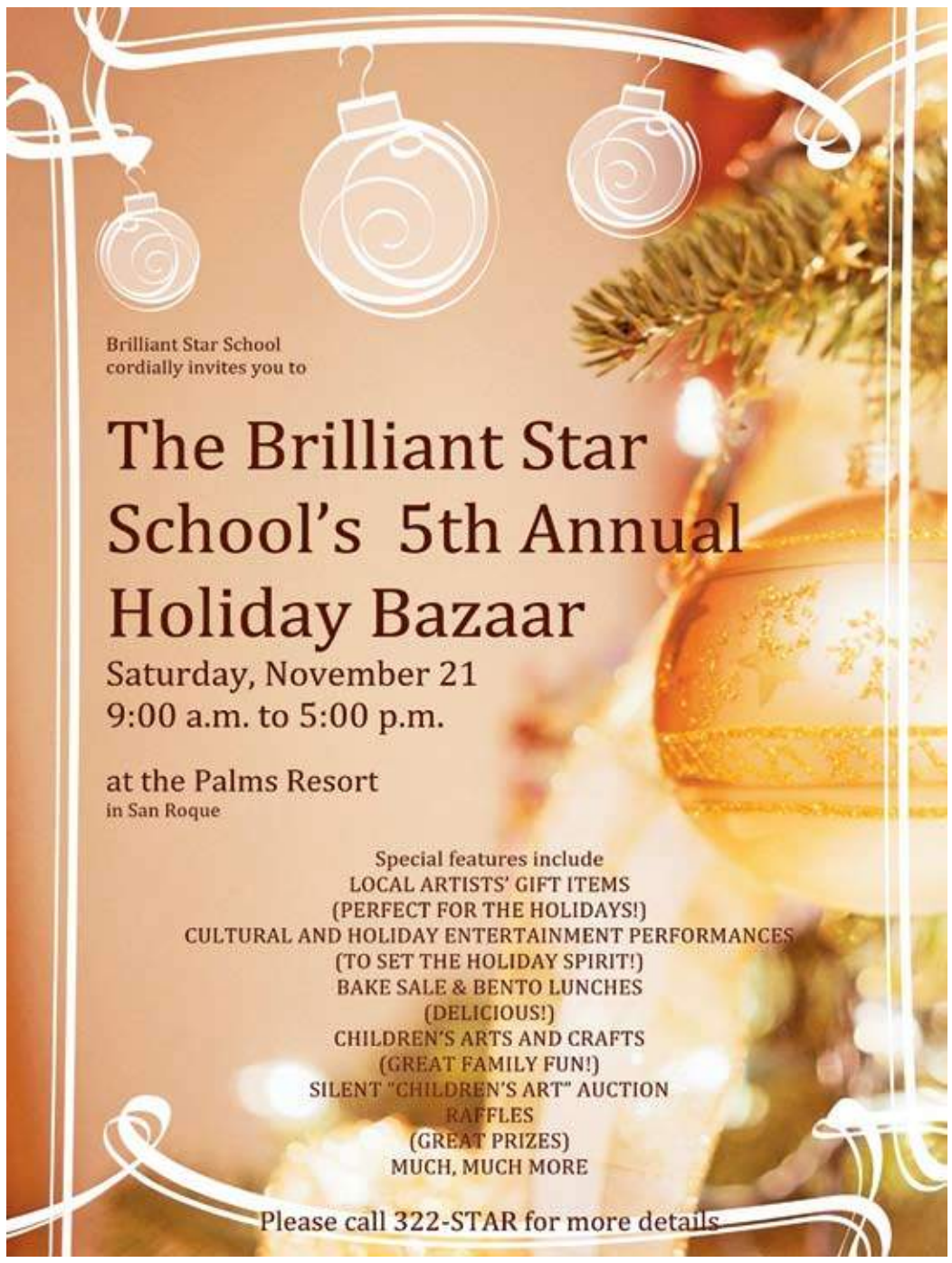
In PSS' proposal to the U.S. Department of Education, it said all 1,200 students of Marianas High School will be provided laptops, along with 800 students in Kagman High School, 805 in Saipan Southern High School, 225 on Tinian, and 173 at Rota High School.

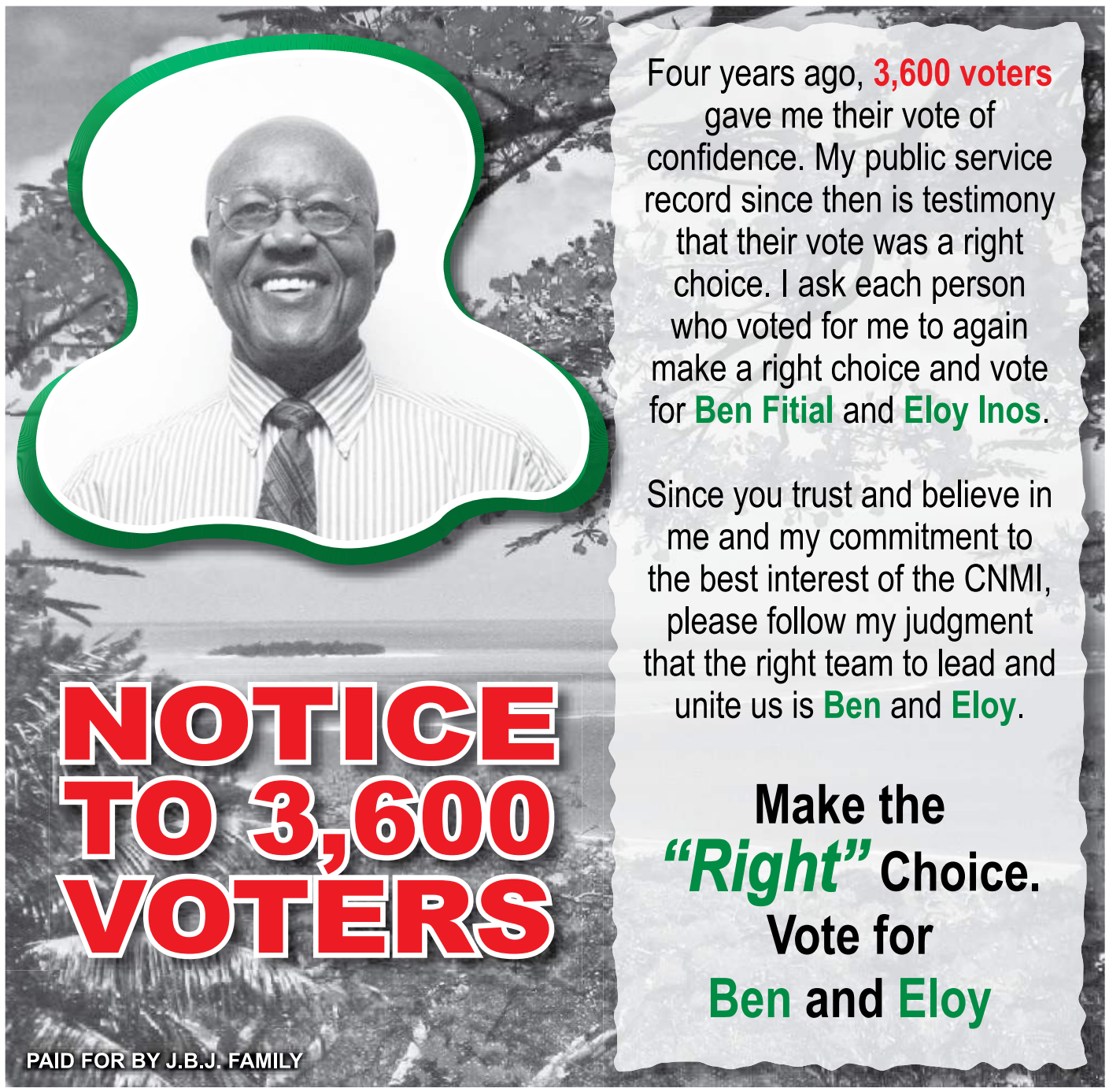
Chacha, Hopwood, Tinian and Rota Junior High Schools reportedly need about 2,000 laptops to be included in the project.

Sablan also announced that PSS is investing in e-books—electronic books—for students' easy access to materials.

PSS said the need for students to have reliable access to computers and technology is duly noted and provided for under the No Child Left Behind Act.

With the laptop project, PSS expects students to show an 80-percent increase in vocabulary through the use of software technology and a marked 3- to 5-point increase in their GPA as the success they achieve in the program will transfer to all academic areas. ***(Moneth Deposa)***




Four years ago, 3,600 voters gave me their vote of confidence. My public service record since then is testimony that their vote was a right choice. I ask each person who voted for me to again make a right choice and vote for Ben Fitial and Eloy Inos.
Since you trust and believe in me and my commitment to the best interest of the CNMI, please follow my judgment that the right team to lead and unite us is Ben and Eloy.
NOTICE TO 3,600 VOTERS
Make the "Right" Choice.
Vote for
Ben and Eloy
PAID FOR BY J.B.J. FAMILY

Feds set parole regs for NMI-bound Chinese, Russians

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

The U.S. Customs and Border Protection of the Department of Homeland Security announced yesterday the entry requirements for Russian and Chinese tourists visiting the CNMI through the parole program starting on Nov. 28.

Only nationals from the People's Republic of China or the Russian Federation are eligible for the CNMI-only parole provision beginning on the implementation date of federal immigration in the CNMI.

To be eligible for the parole provision, Chinese and Russian tourists should be solely entering and staying in the CNMI for only up to 45 days, and should be in possession of a roundtrip ticket that is nonrefundable, nontransferable, and bears a confirmed departure date not exceeding 45 days from the date of entry to the CNMI, CBP said.

They should also be in possession of a completed and signed Guam-CNMI Visa Waiver Information form, or the CBP Form I-736.

Chinese and Russian tourists are also required to be in possession of a completed CBP Form I-94, or the arrival-departure record, as well as a valid unexpired ICAO-compliant, machine readable passport. ICAO stands for International Civil Aviation Organization.

"Parole will be authorized only for entry into the CNMI and will not extend to other areas of the United States," CBP said.

The parole program does not apply to Russian and Chinese tourists visiting Guam.

On Oct. 21, Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano announced that she will exercise her discretionary authority to parole into the CNMI nationals from China and Russia, until DHS issues a final rule on the joint Guam-CNMI Visa Waiver Program.

The CNMI government and businesses welcomed the parole program, citing the need for continued access to these two important tourist markets, which account for 20 percent of tourism revenue.

Carriers

CBP said for carriers to be eligible to transport eligible Russian and Chinese tourists, they should already be signatory to the Guam-CNMI Visa Waiver Program.

Carriers are also responsible for ensuring that travelers meet the eligibility requirements for the CNMI-only parole.

Carriers that are not currently signatories are required to complete CBP Form I-760 and initiate the process with CBP no later than Nov. 23, to be eligible by the Nov. 28 implementation date.

CBP said it will not initiate fines against the carrier under Section 273 of the Immigration and Nationality Act for boarding nonimmigrant aliens without a valid U.S. visa, provided the carrier is signatory to the Guam-CNMI Visa Waiver Agreement.

The carrier should also acknowledge its responsibility for the removal of such aliens if they are determined to be inadmissible to the United States on grounds other than the specific provision of the INA: 212(a)(7)(B)(i)(II).

Starting on Nov. 28, CBP will assume immigration functions in the CNMI.

As a result, new security features will be in place for all travelers entering the CNMI, including Chinese and Russian tourists.

These features include a notice of entry to CBP before the flight takes off; vetting of the passengers on a security watch list before entry; and compliance with strict exit controls upon departure from the CNMI.

Fee waivers at Cash for College workshop

Individuals who attend the Northern Marianas College's free "Cash for College" will qualify to have their application and placement test fees waived for the upcoming Spring 2010 semester. Staff members from the college's Office of Admissions and Records will also be present to provide information and assistance with the NMC application process.

CONTACT INFO
Office of Admissions and Records
Tel: 234-5498 Ext. 1524/37
E-mail: oar@nmcnet.edu

The free workshop, which will be held this Saturday, Nov. 21, 2009, at the college's Building A (east side of campus), is aimed at assisting students and their parents maximize scholarship opportunities that are available to students seeking to obtain a college education. The workshop will be an ongoing session, so participants can stop by anytime between 9am and 3pm.

Those who attend the workshop will receive personal, step-by-step assistance in completing college financial aid forms for the Free Application for Federal Student Aid, the Saipan Higher Education Financial Aid, and the CNMI Scholarship.

Participants are encouraged to bring documents that are required by the scholarship agencies. These documents include a valid form of identification (e.g. passport, birth certificate), an official transcript from high school (at least three official copies), tax forms, and proof of CNMI residency for 2008 and 2009, including proof of continuing residency. Applicants for SHEFA must bring a voter registration card.

For more information, contact the Office of Admissions and Records at 234-5498 ext. 1524/37, or e-mail oar@nmcnet.edu.

The Cash for College is made possible by the financial support of the U.S. Department of Education College Access Challenge Grant Program. ***(NMC)***

COP

From Page 1

receive payments ranging from $300 to $700 from drivers of illegal taxicabs in exchange for dismissing their criminal cases and returning to the drivers the seized vehicles.

Leon Guerrero's rank is Police Officer 2. He is the current supervisor of the Thief Apprehension Select Coalition, a task force formed by the DPS in 2002 to battle rising cases of burglary, theft, and robbery in the CNMI.

Saipan Tribune learned that the FBI served the arrest warrant on Leon Guerrero when the detective showed up at the Horiguchi Building in Garapan.

The complaint was filed under seal on Monday but U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Alex R. Munson granted the U.S. government's motion to unseal the case yesterday.

Munson set the bail hearing for Friday, Nov. 20, at 11am and remanded Leon Guerrero to the custody of the U.S. Marshal. He set the preliminary hearing for Nov. 25 at 10am.

The O'Connor law firm, which is representing Leon Guerrero, said it will argue for bail.

In the U.S. government's motion to seal the case, Assistant U.S. Attorney Eric O'Malley stated that the affidavit to support the complaint contains details of other ongoing investigations that may, if disclosed, jeopardize the identity of the government's confidential source.

FBI special agent Park stated in his affidavit that a source provided information in the past five months about Leon Guerrero's scheme to extort money from unlicensed taxi operators.

Park said that, in July 2009 the source approached the FBI and disclosed that he had been previously arrested by Leon Guerrero for operating an unlicensed taxi. The source was jailed for one night. Upon release, the source met with Leon Guerrero to inquire about getting his vehicle back.

Park said that Leon Guerrero told the source that something could be worked out.

On the evening of the next day, the source received a telephone call from Leon Guerrero, who instructed the source to meet him at the Price Costco parking lot, where a $500 payment was discussed to get the source's vehicle. The next day, the source met with Leon Guerrero and allegedly paid $500 in cash. Park said the payment was made to the detective inside the police station and the vehicle was released to the source after the transaction was completed.

In another instance in September 2009, Park said, the source introduced an acquaintance to the FBI who had also been recently arrested for operating an unlicensed taxi.

Leon Guerrero was then contacted by the source to obtain information on how the source's acquaintance vehicle could be returned. Leon Guerrero allegedly advised him that the vehicle would be released in exchange for $300.

Park said that, Oct. 4, 2009, the source, acting on behalf of the acquaintance, met with Leon Guerrero and paid $300.

For the next several days after the "transaction," the source had several telephone conversations with Leon Guerrero, including a possible dismissal of the investigation against the source's acquaintance. Park said Leon Guerrero asked for $500 to have the case dismissed.

On Oct. 9, 2009, the source met with Leon Guerrero and paid $200 of the $500 being asked. Seven days later, the source paid the remaining $300 to Leon Guerrero.

Park said the FBI recorded several of those discussions.

Recently, the agent said, the FBI interviewed a witness about a separate matter. Park said the witness voluntarily admitted to working with Leon Guerrero in extorting money from unlicensed Chinese taxi drivers.

In over eight occasions, Leon Guerrero would allegedly contact the witness who spoke Chinese and instruct the witness to contact unlicensed taxi drivers.

Leon Guerrero provided the telephone numbers of the drivers to the witness.

At the direction of Leon Guerrero, Park said, the witness would advise the drivers that if they want to get their vehicles returned, they would have to pay him (witness) money for the release of the car.

Payments demanded by Leon Guerrero and the witness ranged from $300 to $700, according to the special agent.

Park said once the driver made the payment to the witness, the money would be split with Leon Guerrero and the witness, and the vehicle released to the driver.

LAWMAKERS

From Page 1

The 76 certified vacant positions are included in 18 separate certification documents, copies of which were obtained by Saipan Tribune.

Fitial, in letters to Senate President Pete P. Reyes (R-Saipan) and House Speaker Arnold I. Palacios (R-Saipan), said the vacant positions "must be filled during the period of our present continuing resolution."

"The filling of these vacant positions is of vital importance for the efficient delivery of essential public services. Continuing appropriations are available for the full personnel cost associated with these vacancies," Fitial said.

The House and the Senate failed to pass a Fiscal Year 2010 budget in time for the start of the new fiscal year on Oct. 1. The CNMI is again under continuing resolution.

On Monday, the House rejected the Senate-amended budget bill that contains austerity measures, including a four-day workweek. A joint conference committee has been formed for a compromise bill.

Of the vacant positions certified by the governor, 32 are at the Department of Public Health, mostly for nurses and one for a doctor, while 25 are at the Department of Public Safety, mostly for police officers.

Health Secretary Joseph Kevin Villagomez said last week that new doctors and staff nurses have been hired recently to fill various critical posts at the hospital.

Fitial's certifications also include vacant positions for an administrative assistant at DPS, administrative officer I at the Department of Commerce, a clerk III at the Office of the Attorney General, a receptionist at the Women's Affairs Office, and a general maintenance at the Emergency Management Office.

The rest are for jobs at the Department of Finance's Customs Division, Department of Public Works, Department of Lands and Natural Resources, Tinian Health Center, as well as the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library and the Department of Public Lands.

'Proper?'

Rep. David Apatang (R-Saipan) questioned whether it is "proper" to hire for positions that do not seem critical, when there is no budget in place and in light of the government's dwindling financial resources.

He also noted the governor's certification of vacant positions outside critical agencies such as DPH and DPS.

Rep. Tina Sablan (Ind-Saipan), when asked for comment, said "it's completely unconscionable that the administration would push to slash current employees' salaries by 20 percent while continuing to hire new employees for positions that seem less than critical."

House Speaker Arnold I. Palacios (R-Saipan), during a session on Monday afternoon, instructed Ways and Means Committee chair Rep. Ray N. Yumul (R-Saipan) to verify whether these positions are budgeted for or still fall within the continuing resolution.

Sablan also asked whether Yumul could verify whether these vacant positions have ever been announced.

But as Fitial's certification letter stated, "continuing appropriations are available for the full personnel cost associated with these vacancies."

Yumul said the governor is not obligated to get the approval of the presiding officers of the Legislature to fill vacant government positions.

"That authority of the Legislature to approve or disapprove hiring expired in '09 under PL 16-32," he said.

Certification letters

On Oct. 26, Fitial issued two certification letters. The first one was for two vacant positions at Commerce, including one for administrative officer 1, and one for Alcoholic Beverage and Tobacco Control law enforcement officer I.

The second one was for 31 vacant positions at DPH. These include 10 positions for staff nurse; three positions for eligibility worker I; two positions each for licensed practical nurse, clinical laboratory scientist, and medical referral assistant; and one position each for nursing assistant, nurse midwife, staff pharmacist, pharmacy specialist, pharmacy technician, staff physical therapist, food service manager, kitchen helper, medical records technician I, clinical attendant II, security guard II, and communication operator II.

A separate certification involving DPH was issued on Nov. 5—a vacant position for a pediatrician.

On Oct. 28, the governor certified 21 vacant positions at DPS. These include seven police cadets under local account, nine police cadets under federal account, one administrative assistant, three wild land firefighters, and one dispatcher.

Separate certifications involving DPS were issued on Nov. 3 and 10. The first one was for a driver's license technician, and a vehicle registration technician. The second one was for two dispatcher I posts.

On Nov. 3, Fitial certified one vacant position for a clerk III at the OAG, as well as one vacant position for a customs inspector I at Finance's Customs Division, and for a conservation officer I at DLNR.

Fitial also certified one vacant position each for a library assistant I and a library assistant II at the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library; a position for a mining director at DPL; a position for one account clerk I at the Tinian Health Center; a position for a foreign student assistant at Commerce; and a position for director at DPW's Division of Roads and Grounds.

On the same day, the governor also certified one vacant position each for a supply technician I and equipment operator IV, as well as two positions for equipment operator III, at DPW-Rota.

On Nov. 5, Fitial certified one vacant position for a receptionist at the Women's Affairs Office; one for director of Agriculture at DLNR; and one each for a communications operator and general maintenance at EMO.

CUC's water rate for govt agencies deemed 'unreasonable'

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Representatives of Georgetown Consulting Group disclosed Monday that the present water rate being charged by the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. for government agencies may be unreasonably high at this time and could warrant a Public Utilities Commission investigation.

In a public hearing conducted by the commission, Georgetown said there's a need to re-examine the rate of $30 per 1,000 galloons that is being charged government instrumentalities.

The consultants also said there is a need to know the basis used in coming up with that rate and to determine if the same rate still applies at this time.

Georgetown said the commission could "investigate the issue and recommend the adoption of a new rate if the current level is deemed 'unreasonable.'"

"If not, there's a need to propose a new regulation [to address it]," the representatives said yesterday.

Saipan Tribune learned that more than two-thirds of CUC's water customers are government entities.

Georgetown pointed out, however, that should the government sector's water rate goes down, this practically means an increase in water rates for all other clients.

Georgetown said that a significant number of CUC customers are not paying the appropriate charge for their water and wastewater consumption as they are not hooked to the main system.

Georgetown reiterated its recommendation to enforce some form of amnesty program for customers of CUC who are found illegally connected to the wastewater system.

To accelerate the process of finding connected but unbilled accounts, Georgetown said an amnesty program must be enforced so these accounts become regular customers of CUC without the required penalty and fines.

Georgetown also finds that the current CUC practice of treating customers with meters that do not have visible reading as non-metered customers appears to result in a significant loss of revenues for CUC. These customers are usually billed on the basis of estimated usage—6,000 gallons for residential customers and 18,000 gallons for commercial customers.

This situation, Georgetown said, results in a loss for CUC since the estimated figures currently being used for billing these customers are less than the average usage in each of these rate classifications.

They asked the commission to address this concern in its March regulatory session in 2010.

Fernandez: NMC campus is now a smoke-free zone

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

More than a month since the passage of a law that bans smoking in public places, the Northern Marianas College assured the public yesterday that the campus is now a smoke-free zone and is drafting policy that would address student violators.

College president Dr. Carmen Fernandez said the institution is compliant with Public Law 16-46, and that smoking is no longer allowed anywhere on NMC property.

Fernandez said that, soon after the enactment of the anti-smoking law, she issued a memorandum to all employees to inform them of the law's application on campus. She said she expects all students, faculty, and staff to comply with the measure.

"Any violations will be handled in accordance with the law and Board of Regents policy," Fernandez's said, adding that the management is also working on regulations that further clarify how violations will be handled.

Posters and flyers will soon be disseminated on campus to help spread the word about the new law. The information will include resources that offer support and assistance to those who want to quit smoking.

"We are making every effort to reach our students, thus we ask all faculty to please announce this law in the classrooms," Fernandez said.

Saipan Tribune learned that Fernandez is currently working with the college's Human Resources Office to draft policy that would address violations of the law by students.

The regulations, as the Public Law 16-46 mandates, include mandatory education classes on the hazards of tobacco use.

"A smoke-free campus will provide a healthier environment for our students and our employees. I know how difficult this new law can be for smokers, but in the long run I believe that a smoke-free environment can play a considerable role in helping people quit smoking," said Fernandez.

She said that NMC will ensure that employees and students have access to smoking cessation programs and services offered by the Department of Public Health and other organizations.

Some employees interviewed by *Saipan Tribune* said that majority of the campus' smokers now follow the law.

Under the said law, smoking is prohibited in all enclosed areas and outdoor areas within 25 feet of any doorway entrance or exit to a government facility. It also bans smoking in enclosed areas of public places.

Smoking is also prohibited in enclosed facilities within places of employment or within 25 feet of any person who is not smoking if the place or site of work is an outdoor area or area other than an enclosed area, without exception.

The smoking ban does not apply to bars, private residences, and retail tobacco stores, as well as hotel rooms and private rooms in nursing homes that are designated as smoking.

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Some alien workers fail to get their 'umbrella permits'

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Some alien workers, including those with two-year work permits, went to the Department of Labor for the third time yesterday to pick up their transition conditional permits or "umbrella permits," only to be told to return again.

Labor staff wrote down the names of these workers and advised them to return on Thursday, Nov. 19, to pick up their "umbrella permits."

Some workers expressed disappointment as they have already lined up several times under the scorching sun just to get their permits. Thursday will be the fourth time they will visit Labor for the "umbrella permits."

"We already have in our possession two-year work permits. We have our passports. But they told us to come again, for the fourth time, because they could not find our names," one worker said.

The workers said that every time they fall in line for 30 minutes to two hours, they are either already absent or undertime from their jobs.

Labor special legal counsel Deanne Siemer told *Saipan Tribune* that they wish that no one had to come in more than once, and that they are doing their best to minimize problems.

"But in a project this big, there are always some individual difficulties. We are devoting staff this week to getting these problems worked out," Siemer said.

She said that, in general it appears that over 80 percent of those in the computer system will pick up their "umbrella permits."

"Because we have not had time to do any supplemental analyses, some of those presently in the system may have already departed the Commonwealth," she said.

Siemer said some permits have not been available because the holder of the permit fell into more than one category when the permits were printed out.

"For example, a holder of a valid permit may also have had an application pending," she said.

Since Labor treated the various categories as separate batches in the computer processing, names were cross-checked and permits were not printed in one category when the worker is already listed in another category, Siemer said.

"We needed to print the permits in batches in order to have an efficient system for handing them out. A few people got caught in the zone between categories, but we will get all those straightened out," she said.

The lawyer said other permits were not available because the scanned photos were not sufficient to register and the system automatically kicks those out for further examination.

She said a few permits were not available because of typographical errors in the records, name changes, and other data problems.

Siemer said a major problem that both Labor and Immigration face in the permit-issuing process is having enough knowledgeable staff to work the long hours that the program requires.

"In order to complete the issuance of each individual permit quickly, we have to use our best staff. At the same time, we need to keep other essential department functions operating smoothly," she said.

Siemer said they also wish they have better temporary facilities so that people would not have to stand outside, but the Election Commission had taken up the Multi-Purpose Center.

Labor began the distributing the "umbrella permits" on Oct. 26.

The federalization law states that any Commonwealth-issued permit that is in existence on Nov. 27, 2009, will be honored for two years after the law's transition date. The transition date is currently set for Nov. 28, 2009.

AG: No restriction on giving free housing benefit to off-island hires

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Attorney General Edward T. Buckingham said Public Law 14-91 does not prohibit housing benefits for government employees recruited from outside the CNMI.

This is the gist of Buckingham's legal opinion, which was sought by the heads of the Office of Personnel Management, the Department of Public Health and the Department of Finance, and in light of an inquiry by the Office of the Public Auditor.

Many of those receiving housing allowance are doctors and nurses hired from off island by the Commonwealth Health Center.

Hospital employees with dependents and who are hired from off-island get an $800 monthly housing allowance, while single employees get $500.

In his five-page legal opinion dated Nov. 11, Buckingham said P.L. 14-91, Section 3 repealed the current housing regulations and barred their amendment.

"However, this repeal did not completely eliminate the government's power to grant housing benefits," said Buckingham.

The attorney general also said in repealing the housing regulations, P.L. 14-91, Section 3 eliminated the five-year limit on housing benefits.

"Thus, the decision whether or not to grant such benefits remains a matter within the sound discretion of management, presumably a policy decision subject to fiscal limitations and employee contractual rights," Buckingham said in AG Opinion No. 2009-02.

Early this year, the government suspended paying for housing allowance, citing the declining revenues and P.L. 14-91.

Since then, many hospital personnel resigned or were considering resigning from their posts. But the Department of Public Health said to prevent losing valuable employees, DPH will be reinstating the benefit but, instead of classifying it as a "housing allowance" on the payroll, the amount will be added to the existing salary of each personnel.

Pelisamen asks to postpone his sentencing—again

Convicted former estate administrator Luis Kaipat Pelisamen has asked the federal court to postpone his scheduled sentencing today.

Pelisamen, through counsel Douglas F. Cushnie, asked the U.S. District Court for the NMI to put off the sentencing to Nov. 30, 2009.

It was not clear whether the court granted the defendant's motion. The first date of sentencing was Sept. 29, 2009.

In Pelisamen's motion, Cushnie said he received a copy of the pre-sentence report on Oct. 23, 2009, and that his client received a copy of the report on Nov. 9, 2009.

Cushnie said his client received a copy of the report on Nov. 9, 2009, upon Pelisamen's return from surgery in Guam.

The lawyer said Pelisamen wants a new sentencing date solely on the basis that Pelisamen has been informed that the presiding judge in this case, Alex Munson, will be departing the Commonwealth the following week.

"Pelisamen would prefer to appear before the currently presiding judge [Munson]," Cushnie said.

Pelisamen used to serve as administrator of the estate of Rita Kaipat. The estate received $1.37 million in distribution. The U.S. government charged Pelisamen with the unlawful use of estate funds.

On June 22, 2009, a federal jury found Pelisamen guilty of conspiracy to commit wire fraud, wire fraud, conspiracy to commit money laundering, and two counts of money laundering.

Pelisamen asked for a new trial. Munson denied the request. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Proven Leadership for a military economy

The Marianas U.S. military buildup over the coming years represents a major component of the CNMI's eventual economic recovery.

The Team of Governor Fitial and Lt. Governor Inos recognize this and have taken great steps towards ensuring that the Commonwealth is well positioned to capitalize on these opportunities.

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COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Little League sets baseball season

The Saipan Little League Baseball Inc. is informing all interested teams, coaches, managers and sponsors that the upcoming Little League baseball season is tentatively scheduled to start on Saturday, Feb. 13, 2010. Games in the Little League (Majors) will be played at the Miguel B. Pangelinan (Tan Ge) Softball Field while the Juniors, Seniors and Big League games will be played at the Francisco M. Palacios (Tan Ko) Baseball Field in Oleai.

Entrance fee remains at $500 and is payable to Saipan Little League BaseballL Inc. Rosters and other pertinent information such as copies of birth certificate for new players and health insurance must be received by the league no later than Jan. 13, 2010.

For more information regarding the above documents, call Player Agent Piding Tenorio at 287-8091, or Walter Macaranas at 483-9258. ***(PR)***

'Wind Power on a Budget' lecture set

Physics professor John N. Hait will be conducting a free science lecture called "Wind Power On a Budget" at the American Memorial Park on Friday, Nov. 20, 2009, at 6 pm.

This lecture is part of a series called "Alternative Energy for Fun and Profit." Hait said these lectures are timely and have practical applications for local use, each with a negative carbon footprint, and a way to make the island a showcase of Earth-compatible energy generation.

Hait's future lectures and their schedules are:

- Simple Wave and Hydro Power, Jan. 8, 2010
- The Super-High Efficiency Alternator, Jan. 22, 2010
- Homes with Built-in, Continuously Comfortable Temperatures, Feb. 5, 2010. ***(PR)***

John Gonzales Live schedule

Two hours of John Gonzales Live on Wednesday, Nov. 18, 2009, on KSPN Ch. 2. Text your questions or comments to 285-HAFA (4232)

Live, 7pm-8 pm: Rep. Heinz S. Hofschneider House Speaker Arnold I. Palacios promoting their candidacy for the runoff election. Replays, Thursday, Nov. 19, and Friday, Nov. 20, from 7pm to 8 pm on Ch. 2.

LIVE, 8pm-9 pm: NMD for Self Government & Indigenous Rights. Replays, Thursday, Nov. 19, and Friday, Nov. 20, from 8:30pm to 9:30pm. ***(PR)***

Meeting of the Autism Society of the CNMI

The Autism Society of the CNMI will be holding its monthly meeting on Saturday, Nov. 21, 2009 at 10am at the NMPASI Conference Room. Information regarding the group and future meetings will be available at this meeting. All families and friends of individuals with autism and autism related spectrum disorders are invited to attend. For additional information, call John at 234-8803/4 or Larrisa at 322-3761 or send an email to as_cnmi@yahoo.com. ***(PR)***

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Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Nov. 18, 1999

Teno, senators bicker over scholarship funds

Legislators and administration officials appear headed into a major collision over the local scholarship program in the wake of aggressive campaign by the Senate to slash the proposed budget from non-essential services to boost its funding. A group of senators met the other day with Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio and some of his staff to discuss several issues, among them the plan by the Legislature to increase appropriation for the scholarship program under the FY 2000 spending package. The governor has given way to lawmakers to juggle the proposed $206 million budget, which has yet to get approval pending review by the House Ways and Means Committee and the finance department, according to the governor.

DPH wants Tanapag residents tested

The Department of Public Health has asked the Agency for Toxic Disease Registry to carry out an extensive medical testing in Tanapag amid fears that residents may have been affected by the cancer-causing polychlorinated biphenyls. Based on the preliminary review of the people's medical records in Tanapag, the Commonwealth Health Center has seen an increase in incidence of cancer cases and chromosomal abnormalities among the residents, said DPH Secretary Joseph Kevin Villagomez. In a letter to Dr. Henry Falk, ATSDR assistant administrator, the DPH chief requested for medical test on blood, body fats and breast milk to determine whether residents have been exposed to higher levels of PCBs.

Nov. 18, 2002

Medical emergency fails to nudge issuance of rebate

The continuing saga relating to the non-issuance of tax rebates has not spared even a family that has ties to the Babauta administration, after appealing in vain for the immediate release of their money due to a medical necessity. Like the many taxpayers who have yet to receive theirs, the couple has their own tale to tell. Alvin J.U. Hofschneider—brother of Public Health Secretary James U. Hofschneider—and his wife Louise recently asked Gov. Juan N. Babauta in a letter for the urgent release of their rebate for the medical expenses needed by their teenage daughter, who was diagnosed to have a heart ailment. Like most, the couple has so far failed.

Private firm spends $100K to ship off Saipan junk

A private company has shipped out a total of some 6,000 tons of Saipan's discarded heavy equipment and metal scraps in an effort to promote a clean island environment. Kenji Ito of KP Company Limited, which initiated the free collection and disposal of the heavy metal junk this year, said this is just is part of the firm's public service in the CNMI. The company spent some $100,000 for the collection, storage and shipping of the materials. "We'd like to offer our assistance to the people of Saipan, in order to ensure a clean environment and maintain a safe and beautiful island. Since we already chartered a vessel, we might as well maximize it for a good and productive cause," Ito said.

Nov. 18, 2003

New Senate majority emerges

A group of five senators who have emerged as the new majority in the upper house passed a resolution yesterday suspending senators David M. Cing, Pete P. Reyes, Thomas P. Villagomez and Ramon S. Guerrero for a period of 30 days for alleged violation of the CNMI Constitution and the Official Rules of the Senate. The suspension came following the group's decision—made up of senators Paul A. Manglona, Joaquin G. Adriano, Diego M. Songao, Paterno S. Hocog and Joseph Mendiola—to adopt a new set of Senate rules that essentially amended the required number of votes to achieve a suspension, from seven to five.

'Suspension leaves Saipan without any representation in the Senate'

As far as Sen. Pete Reyes' bloc is concerned, Pam Brown's nomination for the Attorney General portfolio had already been rejected by the Senate, and it could not be revived. Reyes made this clear yesterday amid reports about the confirmation of Brown by five senators in a Senate session on Rota. "I'm ignoring whatever action they do. Whether it's legal or illegal, it's up to the court to decide. They should have just waited for the court ruling," said Reyes, referring to a pending lawsuit earlier filed by Sen. Paul Manglona's bloc after Reyes' group took control of the senate leadership last August.

DON'T BELIEVE THE LIES ABOUT THE FEDERAL CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM[1]

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HERE IS THE REAL STORY BASED ON REAL FACTS

From January 2006 through June 2009, a total of $67 million in capital project funds were drawn-down.

These funds were expended towards improvements to the airports, harbors, hospital, landfill, library, parks, power generation engines, roads, schools, wastewater and water infrastructure improvements towards new wells and rehabilitation of water storage facilities.

Using a defined set of priorities, a list of capital improvement projects was established for each island that in total exceeds $53 million dollars.

This list of projects has budgeted $29 million for the Island of Saipan; $9.5 million for the Island of Rota; and $15 million for the Island of Tinian. Among the important improvements that are currently being implemented and completed are[2]:

- **Construction of New Public Cemetery in Marpi;**
- **New Classrooms at Gregorio T. Camacho Elementary School;**
- **Precinct IV Roads;**
- **Closure of the Puerto Rico Landfill;**
- **Improvements to the Susupe Major League/Softball Fields;**
- **Kalabera Cave Environmental Assessment;**
- **Lake Susupe Boardwalk Trail Environmental Assessment;**
- **Rota power generation improvements including engines rehabilitation and upgrade of transmission and distribution;**
- **Design of the New Rota Landfill;**
- **Facilities improvement for Rota Schools;**
- **Design of New Tinian Landfill and Transfer Station;**
- **Improvements to Tinian Airport;**
- **New Classrooms at Tinian Schools; and**
- **Improvements to Tinian Harbor**

Rota Power	Mitsui Engine	DONE
Rota Power	Caterpillar Engine	DONE
Rota Power	Engine Parts	DONE
Rota Power	Caterpillar Power Module	DONE
Rota Power	Utility Bucket Truck	DONE
Rota Power	Electrical Distribution	DONE
Rota Fuel Farm	New Construction	DONE
Rota Landfill	Site Selection & EA	DONE
Rota Ecotourism	Design and EA	DONE
Rota Homestead Water	Extension of Utilities	DONE
Rota Schools	Repair and FT&E	DONE
Rota DPS Septic	New Septic At PSS Adm.	DONE
Tinian Landfill	Landfill Design	DONE
Tinian Airport Terminal	Rehabilitation and Renovation	DONE
Tinian Water Reservoir	New Construction	DONE
Tinian Schools	Demolition And Construction	DONE
Tinian Harbor	Repair of Seawall	DONE
Tinian Homestead Utilities	Extension of Services	DONE
	Rota and Tinian	**24,546,830**

Since the adoption of this list, representatives of the Governor's Office of Capital Improvement have been meeting with officials from DPW, PSS, CUC, CPA, and the United States Department of Interior, Office of Insular Affairs to ensure that we meet our deadline of full implementation during the next ten months.

THE COMBINED EFFORT OF THESE DEDICATED EMPLOYEES REPRESENTS THE LARGEST CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM IMPLEMENTED IN THE HISTORY OF THE COMMONWEALTH.

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Vote Ben and Eloy!

[1]Unfactual Political Ad placed in the Marianas Variety Newspaper November 13th, 2009
[2]A complete list of all the CIP projects and plans can be found at the Office of the Governor, Caller Box 1007, Capitol Hill, Saipan

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Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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EDITORIAL

Racing to education reform

Without spending a penny, Education Secretary Arne Duncan prodded states to take important, if small, steps toward school reform. Hoping to win funds from his forthcoming Race to the Top competition, states dismantled barriers to the use of student achievement data in assessing teachers, lifted caps on charter schools and raised standards for getting a teaching license. Given this achievement even before firing the starting gun in his race, Duncan is entitled to the benefit of the doubt when he says that only states committed to real innovation will be awarded federal dollars.

The first applications for these grants are due in mid-January, so final regulations were issued this week. A complex scoring system will be used to judge state applications, with an emphasis on rewarding those with effective reform agendas and with support from key stakeholders such as local school systems. Almost immediately, some reform groups—the Center for Education Reform and the Education Trust, for example—accused the administration of diluting its demands and weakening standards.

Concerns about potential loopholes are not misplaced; draft regulations have been weakened. But the administration did not abandon its core principles. Still in the rules is an insistence that student achievement be a significant factor in teacher and principal evaluations, that charter and other innovative schools be encouraged, that states take action to turn around failing schools and that states work toward national standards.

More important than parsing the language of the regulations will be the process used to evaluate applications. Some states, such as Colorado and Louisiana, seem be taking the mandates seriously, as they formed statewide coalitions to develop credible plans. Others seem more interested in gaming the system. Here, New York comes to mind with its ridiculous argument that it should qualify because its union-inspired law banning the use of student performance data applies to tenure and so technically is not a ban on use for evaluations—as if tenure were not the ultimate evaluation.

It's a coup for Duncan that he has managed to use $4 billion—a drop in the nation's bucket of education spending—to get much of the country talking about the need for reform. The real test, though, lies ahead in his ability to resist political pressure to spread the fund evenly and instead to target the money to states that are truly committed to reform.

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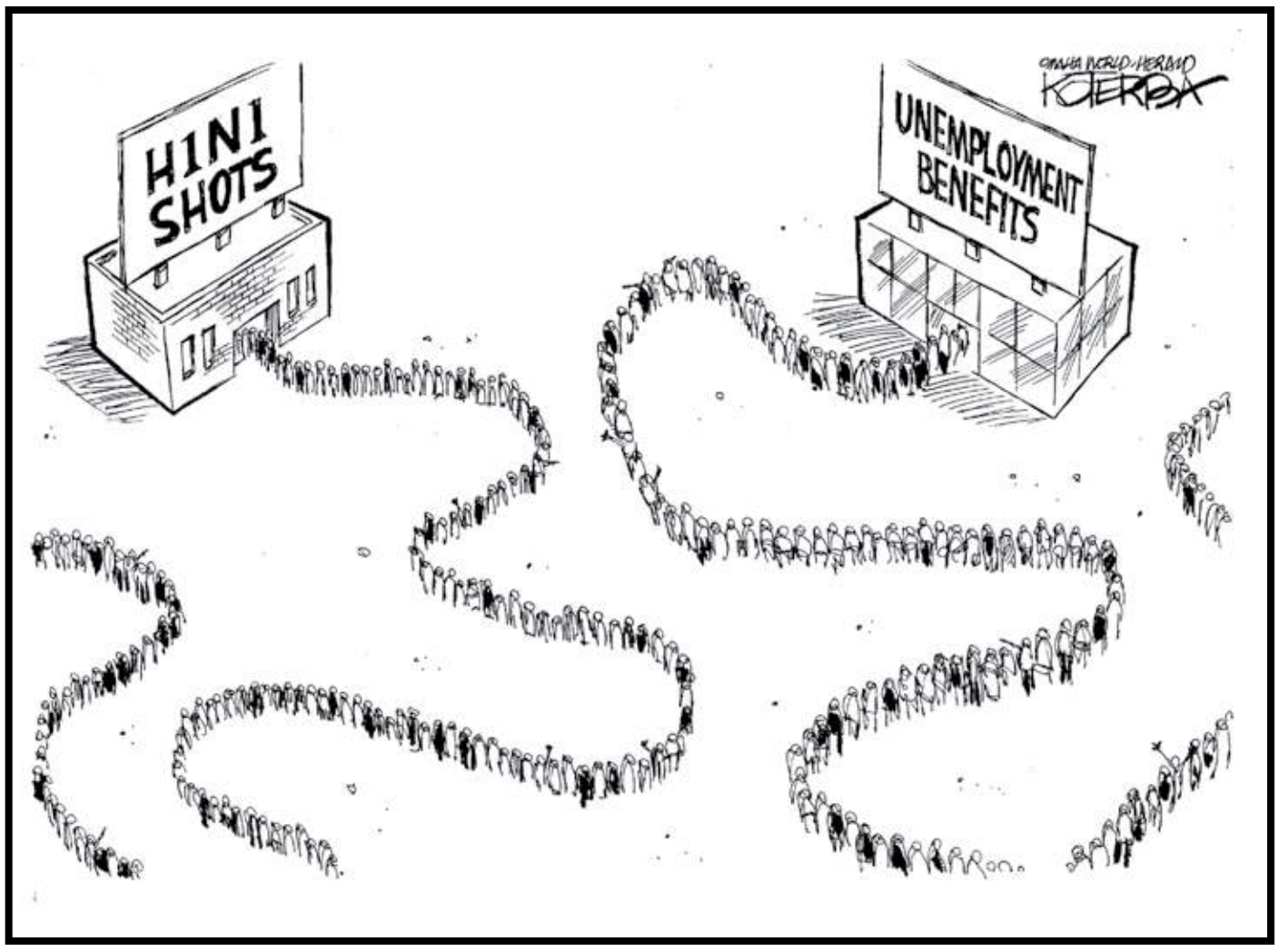


The Iceman Cometh

By JAIME VERGARA
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Vergara is a regular contributor to the Saipan Tribune's *Opinion Section*

Ice is the brand name used by Smirnoff to market its classy malt, targeting the ladies or those who prefer the smooth brew. It is also one of Tony Pellegrino's products, but his is not the subject of our reflection.

ICE is the acronym for the Immigration and Customs Enforcement section of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. Given the impending federalization of Immigration, the ICEman definitely has come. Or, partly. U.S. Customs at the P.O. considers our received packages as foreign parcels subject to declaration and inspection, so immigration might be under federal coverage, but we will continue to be levied duties should your parcel be valued above the magical $1K line!

Our title refers to the Tinian variety, i.e., the indictment of a CUC officer for possession with intent to distribute a controlled substance, in this case, methamphetamine, aka *ice* to the local population, *dhabu* to the Pinoys, and *syabu* to the Yakuza. Ladies of the night dispense *candy,* if you're not up to it!

The recent stunning, though not surprising, revelation of famed tennis player Andre Agassi's use of the regulated crystal meth in 1997 comes as another reminder of the pervasive use of the substance that is a potent nervous system stimulant, affecting neurochemical mechanisms regulating heart rate and blood pressure, appetite and body temperature, attention and mood, and the ability to respond to pressure.

We recall the extreme embarrassment of the Fitial administration when DEA detained passengers arriving in a chartered Shanghai flight at the Saipan International Airport in search of drugs. None was found, although we know enough about "mules" and how any grandma can swallow up to 50 pellets at source and excrete it easily at destination three to five hours later. It was not very smart for DEA agents to do body search if they were really serious about locating the tipped drug shipment, and I suspect, they were looking for *ice*.

But back to the drug whose physical effects closely resemble that of the hormone epinephrine, more popular known as adrenaline, a neurotransmitter emitted to sharpen alertness to critical and alarming situations. Users report an increase in focus and mental alertness, ignore fatigue and decrease appetite.

Its military use is well documented. Hitler's air force pilots and tank commanders were rationed chocolate bars laced with the substance as part of their regular fare. I was told while in Dandung by the Yalu River that troops on maneuver in the Korean peninsula and Chinese borders, on both sides of the divides, are dispensed the substance to improve performance. Though not officially sanctioned, nor substantiated in formal hearings, there are claims of the substance's not infrequent presence in the garment factory production lines.

It is not our intent to rehash information here that Wikipedia readily provides. The mid-'80s saw legislation to curb the production of "designer drugs" for their recreational value, and widespread use led the U.S. Congress to include in the Patriot Act the Combat Methamphetamine Epidemic Act of 2005.

Methamphetamine is prescribed for obesity, attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, and narcolepsy (the brain's inability to regulate wake-sleep cycles) but the street drug *ice* is made in illegal labs by chemically altering over-the-counter drugs, in a highly hazardous process of volatile ingredients.

It is its psychological effect that sells to the energetic youth and panders to the heightened libido of our contemporary sex-crazed society. The downside is dramatic. Paranoia and other psychological disorders associated with drug addiction, along with kidney trauma, are a few of the known effects. Yet consumption remains at an all-time high.

For the informal economy, it is also a lucrative business. Supply can never seem to meet demand. Current cost per gram is supposed to be at $400. Even law enforcement officers are not inured to the alluring effect of the drug and its trade. My brother, a chaplain to Honolulu's PD, is often called to counsel officers who cross the line between law enforcers to partakers of the regulated drug.

At a beer party, a former airport cargo worker blurted out that the system of bringing in contraband goods into the islands through the international port is easily facilitated by the generous gift-giving camaraderie of brokers. Local workers are reluctant not to go along since "everybody else" is either going along, or indifferently turning their backs to questionable transactions.

The addicted local population, along with the boutique crowd, includes characters who do not hesitate to deprive visitors of their valuables and residents of their properties. I resided briefly in a commercial dwelling where the traffic around midnight increased in the hallway. The nature of the commercial transactions going on was unmistakable. The not infrequent appearance of friendly uniformed personnel also gave the impression that a symbiosis between traders and regulators was in place.

"They'll cuff you if you offer monetary bribe," someone said in passing, "but leave some stuff visibly exposed for the taking, and they will leave you alone." The distribution MO is layered:

See ICEMAN on Next Page

EDITORIAL POLICY The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Asap Ogumoro and the case for taro

The only way to take control of your life, raise your standard of living and move beyond merely surviving is to create your own unique product or service that you offer to increasing numbers of people in exchange for the things of value that you desire. This simple formula applies to countries as well as people. A self-sufficient economy has its own products or services of value to export to the world. Similarly, a self-sufficient individual has something of value to exchange in the global marketplace. That thing of value is based on your natural talent, skill, or interest—in other words, your passion!

WALT GOODRIDGE

Featured Saipanpreneur, Asap Ogumoro, stands in the Taro patch on his farm in Kagman.

THE SAIPANPRENEUR PROJECT

Creating economic success for the CNMI

By WALT F.J. GOODRIDGE
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Send article suggestions, entrepreneur nominations and feedback about this article to walt@passionprofit.com.

It has been suggested that agriculture represents a potentially viable industry to develop in order to supplement Saipan's tourism, stimulate the economy and help create a self-sufficient nation within a nation. During the mid-'30s, Saipan was a cane-producing island, and along with Tinian, produced approximately 13 million yen in annual exports. The islands provided food for military troops based here and in Guam during and after World War II.

Could it work today? If so, what could we produce? To get more information, I sat and talked with someone in the know.

Meet Asapmar Ogumoro, a teacher at Garapan Elementary School, with a passion for farming. "Asap" has a degree in Education from Eastern Oregon University, and is also Secretary of the Saipan Sabalu Farmers Market Association. This proud 26-year-old Carolinian is a man with a vision. Last week, I was fortunate enough to share that vision when I visited one of his three plots, a 2.8-acre taro farm in Kagman. It was there that I got a lesson in focus crops, bumper crops, mole crickets, seaweed fertilizer, crop spacing, and heard the case for taro and the virtues of sweet potatoes as export crops for the CNMI.

Walt: So, how did you get into agriculture and farming?

ASAP: Every summer, while I was growing up here on Saipan, I would practice subsistence farming with my grandfather. We grew taro, bananas, yams and other crops.

During my freshman year at Eastern Oregon, I had a chance to work on a farm for a mint oil company. That's where I first experienced commercial farming. It was a huge operation. There were 12 of us from the college, working straight for two months. We experienced the whole operation: tractors, swathers*, even operated huge vats to extract and cook the mint. In those two months, we harvested and produced 81,000 pounds of mint oil. That experience made me want to see the same thing happening here on Saipan. I'm a teacher, but farming is my hobby, something I really enjoy.

**also called* windrowers; *the high volume stem-cutting tool pulled by tractors that most of us visualize when we think of large-scale crop harvesting]*

Walt: With that as your background, tell us about your experiment?

ASAP: Well, I set out to do a feasibility study and a business plan to see just how efficiently and profitably taro and sweet potato could be grown and sold here on Saipan.

I worked with the [Northern Marianas College] to get varieties of sweet potato and taro from Samoa, Taiwan, Singapore, Japan, Hawaii, Manila, Papua New Guinea as well as local varieties.

We started with five varieties of potatoes, and 12 varieties of taro. I wanted to see which ones could be grown most efficiently. The major factors are the cost, the weather, and the market demand. After almost two years of experimenting, I narrowed it down to two types of potatoes and three types of taro. These would be the best choices.

One is the Purple Taro grown locally here on Saipan. *[Asap tells me the scientific name is Colocasia_esculenta]*

Walt: What was the most important thing you discovered?

ASAP: Well, the coolest thing, and the most important lesson I learned was how durable the taro crops are. Weather-wise, we had a unique year with two typhoons and two tropical storms. I didn't lose a single taro or potato. The papaya, pumpkins, the hot peppers, those were gone, but the taro survived. We still had something to offer and keep money coming in.

Walt: Even though it's an experiment, it's also a real business at the same time. Tell us about it. Is this a 100-man operation?

ASAP: Actually, it could be a one-man operation! But since I'm a full-time teacher, I have two workers, one has been with the family many years.

Usually, Monday through Wednesday, we're planting and fertilizing. Thursdays and Fridays we're harvesting for sale. Some of my family members help out on the weekends.

This farm produces 200-300 lbs of produce per week. We sell on Saturdays, and also by special order to supermarkets and other customers.

Walt: And how much do you sell it for?

ASAP: We sell the taro for $1.00/lb, and the sweet potato for $0.70/lb

Walt: So, based on your research, do you think purple taro could be a viable export for the CNMI?

ASAP: Absolutely. It could be. "Could" is the important word. With the right people behind it and the right marketing.

Walt: What are some of the reasons you think it could work?

ASAP: [Asap lists a number of reasons including:]

1. Purple taro has a distinct flavor.
2. It's strong and hardy and can survive both the wet and dry seasons.
3. It's more nutritious than regular potato and has fiber and protein.
4. The entire plant is edible roots, leaves and corm [the fibrous bulb we eat].
5. It's requires less maintenance than other crops.
6. Taro diseases are not rampant here as on other islands.
7. You can time it; plant during the summer and harvest during the winter.
8. Most other producers are focused on the white variety of taro.

Walt: So, what would you like to see happen next?

ASAP: I'd like to see us here on Saipan creating and selling a product grown and harvested from our very own land; a product we can sell to the world, and one we can consume for nutrition. So, even if you don't sell it this week, at least your fridge is full. It's a combination of commercial and subsistence farming.

One of my goals is to bring back the taro to our traditional diet. In the past it was a major part of our diet, but now rice has replaced it as a staple.

Walt: And, in order for that to happen…?

ASAP: Well, right now, there are 32 plots here in Kagman, and I've heard that only half of them are actually active. We would definitely need more people involved. It's even something you could do part time.

Also, the taro itself has about a one-week shelf life. If we had some value-added products, foods that could be made from the taro and eaten at a later date, that would help too—things like flours, chips, dried products.

Walt: Are there people doing that now?

ASAP: Yes, it's already happening. Three of the chip vendors here on island get their sweet potatoes from us. They order about 80-120 lbs each week.

If you see locally-produced sweet potato products [chips and pies] at the gift shops here on Saipan, chances are they get their potatoes from us.

Walt: What advice do you have for people considering farming?

ASAP: First, definitely consult with existing farmers. Also, consult with NMC-CREES (Northern Mariana College - Cooperative Research Extension and Education Service) before venturing into agriculture. They can provide a lot of good advice and suggestions.

Second, start with a plan—a business plan to get your ideas organized.

Third, I would say that in order to be successful, you have to have the passion and the patience. Passion is what will keep you going, and the patience is a must in farming. Nature takes its own time. Sometimes you will be stressful about it, and very eager for your harvest, like I was at the beginning. Patience. Allow your crop to mature properly, so it tastes the way it should and has the nutrition it should. Sometimes, farmers will get too eager, and you'll see crops harvested too soon, and they won't sell. That's what I mean by patience. That was a really hard lesson to learn.

ASAP's Lesson for Life: Asap Ogumoro's training and profession as an educator, as well as his desire to share the lessons of his experiment for the benefit of the CNMI and the world, clearly identify him as a "guru" in terms of his purpose (He is here to teach.) His passion is farming, and his product is the taro. He's a textbook example for all of us of someone using a passion to live out a purpose, selling a product and turning a profit!

Interested in Taro? Want to purchase, prepare and even profit from it?

Or, if you want to discuss the virtues of Taro, or hire Asap as a consultant for your own future farming operation, you'll find him on Saturday mornings 6am to 11am at the Sabalu Market opposite the Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe. E-mail him at Ogumoro@gmail.com, or call (670) 483-0477.

■ ■ ■ ■

Note: Read more about the "creator," "savior," "guru" & "guide" dynamics, and the purposeàpassionàproductàprofit cycle of success at www.passionprofit.com].

***Note**: Ever wanted to direct your friends and family to a set of websites that said good things about Saipan? Do what I do: send them to www.bestofsaipan.com!*

Note: Fans and followers of the book, *Chicken Feathers and Garlic Skin: Diary of a Chinese Garment Factory Girl on Saipan* may now find copies here on Saipan at Fu Dogs & Qi (pronounced chi), Saipan's only Asian Antiques Store, located on the first floor of the Nauru Building (the "360 building") in Susupe.

■ ■ ■ ■

Until next week, remember, success is a journey, not a destination!

Walt F.J. Goodridge is author of 15 books including Turn Your Passion Into Profit. *Walt offers coaching and workshops to help people pursue and profit from their passions. Originally from the island of Jamaica, Walt has grown several successful businesses in the US, and now makes his home here in Saipan. To learn more about the Saipanpreneur Project and Walt's philosophy and formula visit www.saipanpreneur.com and www.passionprofit.com.*

ICEMAN

From Page 10

a desperate out-of-status individual hires local runners, gets supply from a legitimate businessman with tiered contacts to crime syndicates who bring in the substance. Japan was the primary source (Japanese scientist historically were first to synthesize the drug) for quality, since replaced according to rumor by North Korea through China.

Not unlike other drug addictions, we know that where there is a demand, the supply will be found. Drug regulation expanded occupancy in our nation's penitentiaries, clogged our judicial system. Battling cartels has momentary effects. Educating users of dangers is like preaching hell and damnation to faithful who sing, "I am sinking deep in sin. Wheeeeee!" It attracts more than it repels.

We need the re-education, nay, the reinvention of the human, and what it means to lead an awake, aware, engaging, and meaningful existence. Then, we can relax with Tony's kind of ice mixed with the sunset beverage at the grill by the lagoon while waiting for the fabled green flash in the western horizon.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°

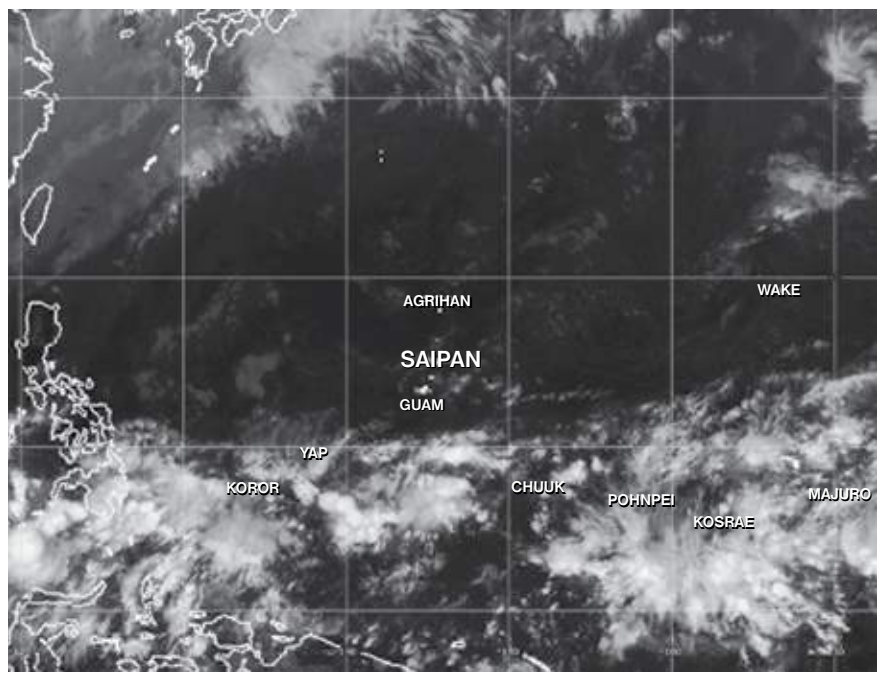
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Showers	▲84	▼75
Palau	Showers	▲85	▼77
Yap	Thunder Storms	▲86	▼77
Chuuk	Rain	▲88	▼77
Pohnpei	Showers	▲86	▼76
Kosrae	Thunder Storms	▲87	▼80
Majuro	Thunder Storms	▲82	▼78

Around The Globe

Auckland	Cloudy	▲69	▼61
Beijing	Sunny	▲34	▼19
Hong Kong	Windy	▲70	▼63
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	▲84	▼72
London	Cloudy	▲55	▼46
Los Angeles	Mostly Sunny	▲76	▼52
Manila	Sunny	▲89	▼75
Melbourne	Cloudy	▲77	▼55
Miami	Partly Sunny	▲82	▼68
New York	Mostly Sunny	▲52	▼41
Osaka	Rain	▲50	▼43
Paris	Showers	▲56	▼47
Pusan	Cloudy	▲49	▼29
Rome	Sunny	▲73	▼54
Salem	Rain	▲50	▼36
San Francisco	Cloudy	▲61	▼44
Seoul	Cloudy	▲39	▼27
Tokyo	Rain	▲53	▼49
Washington, DC	Mostly Sunny	▲58	▼42

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2009
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A surface trough extends eastward from 3N130E through a weak circulation centered southwest of Chuuk near 5N144E to a weak circulation south of Chuuk at about 5N153E to still another weak circulation near 5N157E to end at about 3N166E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are found around the trough southwest of Koror within 125 miles of a line from 6N130E to 3N135E south of Guam between 4N and 10N from 136E to 149E and between the equator and 10N from 153E to 170E. This third area includes Pohnpei, Kosrae, and Kwajelein.

Tides

Saipan Harbor		
2:21 AM Today	Low Tide:	0.5 Feet
9:31 AM Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet
2:51 PM Today	Low Tide:	1.3 Feet
7:24 PM Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:20 AM	5:44 PM
Thursday	6:21 AM	5:44 PM
Friday	6:21 AM	5:44 PM
Saturday	6:22 AM	5:44 PM
Sunday	6:22 AM	5:44 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	7:23 AM	6:47 PM
Thursday	8:17 AM	7:40 PM
Friday	9:08 AM	8:33 PM
Saturday	9:55 AM	9:26 PM
Sunday	10:38 AM	10:16 PM

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF NOVEMBER 4, 2009

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

C09597	11:30am	12:05pm	1, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM

C09597	12:40pm	1:10pm	1, 7

SAIPAN-GUAM

C09317	4:45am	5:35am	Daily
C09313	8:30am	9:20am	Daily
C09597	11:30am	1:10pm	1, 7 via ROP
C09601	12:20pm	1:10pm	4, 5
C09603	3:15pm	4:05pm	Daily
C09605	6:20pm	7:10pm	Daily
C09599	9:20pm	10:10pm	Daily

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

NW287	6:00am	8:40am	Daily
NW297	4:45pm	7:30pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:20am	6:50am	1, 5

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ604	2:10am	6:00am	1
OZ604	2:40am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ606	3:20pm	7:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

FM844	2:50am	5:40am	2, 6

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

CZ3008	3:30am	6:40am	2, 6

SAIPAN-MANILA

OZ604/701	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ604/701	2:40am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ604/703	2:50am	11:25am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
C09603/933	3:15pm	9:40pm	Daily via GUM
C09599/PR111	9:20pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM

SAIPAN-HONG KONG

OZ604/721	2:10am	12:00pm	1 via ICN
OZ604/721	2:40am	12:00pm	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN

ARRIVALS

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

C09598	3:30am	4:05am	5, 6
C09312	1:20pm	1:55pm	6

GUAM-ROTA (ROP)

C09598	2:20am	2:50am	5, 6
C09312	12:10pm	12:40pm	6

GUAM-SAIPAN

C09598	2:20am	4:05am	5, 6 via ROP
C09316	2:20am	3:10am	1, 2, 3, 4, 7
C09596	7:00am	7:50am	Daily
C09600	10:05am	10:55am	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7
C09312	12:10pm	1:55pm	6 via ROP
C09602	1:50pm	2:40pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C09604	4:50pm	5:40pm	Daily
C09606	8:00pm	8:50pm	Daily

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

NW298	10:05pm	2:50pm	Daily
NW288	8:45pm	1:20am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:00pm	2:20am+1	4, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

OZ605	9:00am	2:20pm	4, 7
OZ603	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ603	8:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

FM843	7:15pm	1:50am+1	1, 5

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

CZ3007	7:30pm	2:40am+1	1, 5

MANILA-SAIPAN

OZ702/603	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/603	1:10pm	1:30am+1 via ICN	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
PR110/C09596	10:10pm	7:50am+1 via GUM	1, 3, 5, 6, 7
C0934/9596	11:10pm	7:50am+1	Daily via GUM
OZ704/605	11:55pm	2:20pm+1	2,4,6,7 via ICN

HONG KONG-SAIPAN

OZ724/605	12:30am	2:20pm	2,4,6,7 via ICN
OZ750/605	1:00am	2:20pm	2,4,6,7 via ICN
OZ722/603	1:30pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/603	1:30pm	1:30am+1 via ICN	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; PR: Philippine Airlines; NW: Northwest; OZ: Asiana
ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota			
FRE 100	7:00am	7:30am	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 100	7:50am	8:20am	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 200	9:00am	9:30am	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 200	9:50am	10:15am	Daily
Guam-Rota			
FRE 300	4:00pm	4:30pm	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 300	4:50pm	5:25pm	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 400	6:00pm	6:30pm	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 400	6:45pm	7:15pm	Daily
Saipan-Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45am	6:55am	Daily
FRE 103	7:30am	7:40am	Daily
FRE 105	8:00am	8:10am	Daily
FRE 107	8:40am	8:50am	Daily
FRE 109*	9:10am	9:20am	Daily
FRE 111*	10:45am	10:55am	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**			
FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

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- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

POLICY

- The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.
- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

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CHANGE ALREADY CAME. BEN & ELOY STARTED IT. HERE ARE THE FACTS:

EDUCATION: Governor Ben Fitial's Administration supports education beyond the 15-percent minimum allocation mandated by law. Governor Fitial never hesitates in approving or reprogramming millions of dollars from the following funding sources for the Public School System: Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) for Marianas High School [Building Completed], Governor's Discretionary Fund, CIP Fund for GTC Elementary School [Buildings Under Construction], and the General Fund. Governor Fitial sees education as one of the essentials, along with public safety and public health. He gave PSS millions from the ARRA Stabilization Fund intended for his Office—Governor's Discretionary Fund—to make up for the loss of Compact Impact Funds from the federal government.

Highway Projects: Seven (7) Highway Projects are underway: Six (6) Highway Projects were awarded and soon to begin construction: 3 on Rota, 2 on Tinian and 2 on Saipan; (1 Saipan Highway Project is being bid for the Design Phase). [**CDBG** funds was also used to build one of the million-gallon water tanks on Saipan.]
American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA): The Fitial Administration secured over 96-Million Dollars in ARRA awards.
CIP: Governor Fitial secured 53-Million Dollars for Capital Improvement Programs/Projects from **702 Funding.**

RETIREMENT FUND: The Retirement Fund's Defined Benefit Pension Plan (DB Plan) was broken when the Fitial Administration took office, and no one stepped forward to fix it. Rather, over the years, several public laws were passed committing the Retirement Fund to pay for un-funded benefits, thereby increasing un-funded liabilities, against the interest of the Retirement Fund. Keep in mind that all taxpayers are paying for the government's contributions to the Retirement Fund's DB Plan. Through Governor Fitial's leadership and guidance, he led the implementation of the Defined Contribution Pension Plan (DC Plan) to bring relief to the Retirement Fund's troubled DB Plan. The implementation of the DC Plan minimized the "bleeding" of the DB Plan's assets by stopping new membership enrollment and arresting—stop—the growth of the Actuarial Accrued Liability. The DC Plan also reduces the government's contribution to 4-percent for the DB Plan. The new DC Plan also allows the members to participate in managing their own portfolio. Governor Ben Fitial finally stop and put under control the rising accrued liabilities. The DB Pension Plan was patterned after the U.S. military's retirement plan with an employer contribution rate of over 36-percent on the dollar. The CNMI taxpayers simply cannot afford the DB Pension Plan.

RETIREMENT FUND RECOVERY: The implementation of the DC Plan allows the corpus and portfolios of the Retirement Fund's DB Plan to gradually recover by reducing the growth of the Actuarial Accrued Liability, and will eventually reach a positive investment growth trend where its sound investments will be able to sustain the obligations of the DB Plan to its existing members. The Retirement Fund's DB Plan ultimate guarantor is the CNMI government, and the government's employer contributions will be paid through a manageable and affordable payment plan so as not to bankrupt the central government. The current trend of the DB Plan's Actuarial Accrued Liability is decreasing and will lead to gradual recovery. Governor Ben Fitial's experience and leadership prevailed by finding permanent solutions instead of band-aid solutions to long-standing and neglected problems. Governor Fitial did not resort to criticizing others. Instead, he provided permanent solutions without grandstanding or faultfinding.

CUC, GEOTHERMAL AND ALTERNATIVE ENERGY TECHNOLOGIES: Permanent relief to consumers in the form of reduced power rate is coming! How will this be achieved? CUC currently can produce 54 megawatts of electricity. The demand is 40 megawatts with a reserve of 14 megawatts. This was made possible by repairing the large low speed 13-megawatt engines to save fuel. Now that power generation is stabilized and is more efficient, more resources, time and efforts may be dedicated towards alternative energy exploration, which will lead to cheaper sources of power.

CUC'S LONG-TERM ENERGY SOLUTIONS: Permanent relief will be achieved for present and future generations by achieving energy sufficiency through a combination of conventional and alternative energy technologies. The Geothermal Assessment has been performed and now awaiting the next step, which is Exploration of Geothermal Circulations in Saipan. An RFP has been issued and a contract has been awarded to begin the exploration anytime now. Scientists working on the Geothermal Assessment and Exploration are optimistic that the CNMI has the potential to generate power using geothermal circulations to run steam turbine generators as well as produce hydrogen fuel. We all know that the price of oil—fossil fuel—will continue to rise and supply will eventually be depleted. Governor Ben Fitial believes in implementing permanent energy solutions where generations of our people will benefit.

WEATHERING THE ECONOMIC STORM AND DECLINING REVENUE: The Fitial Administration drastically cut travel and operations costs, and managed to maintain public services after experiencing more than 70-million dollars in revenue decline. In the last 4 years, policies were implemented to reduce waste, cut overall cost, and improve performance standards and efficiency while we continue to strive to improve the quality and delivery of public services. For example, at DPS and DOC, more officers were hired to reduce overtime expenses. Soon, new training cycles will be started to continue the effort to hire more officers. Consistent efforts will continue, bringing an end to long-established wasteful and inefficient management practices by promoting professional standards and enhancing public image, performance and efficiency. The number of government employees decreased considerably by attrition—by not hiring and filling many positions. The Administration did not resort to layoffs. For example, at the Department of Labor, the number of personnel was reduced by 50-percent—from nearly 100 to under 50 employees—with no backlogs in the Hearing Office and the Labor Processing Section. The Hearing Office heard and adjudicated approximately 4000 labor cases within months dating back as far back as 1994. The lengthy processing period for labor applications has been eliminated. Labor processing is now computer-assisted with little or no waiting period.

PUBLIC HEALTH AND CHC: Privatization with a "No one will be turned away." policy has begun at the Commonwealth Health Center. The privatization effort will make more doctors as well as health care services readily available on a competitive basis. The claim that the Fitial Administration wants to hire non-U.S.-certified doctors is false. The Fitial Administration wants to allow U.S.-certified doctors from the Philippines and other countries to practice medicine in the CNMI. The opposition attacked the excellent idea and concept simply because it was favorable to the Fitial Administration's reputation. This concept and arrangement will decrease the cost of health care as well as reduce the cost of medical referrals. It is a fact that many doctors in the Philippines were U.S.-educated, U.S.-trained and U.S.-certified. Two Cabinet members received treatment at The Medical City, Manila, from Dr. Sherman Valero, MD, DPBO, a U.S.-certified Retinal Specialist, who practiced medicine at Straub Clinic and Hospital in Honolulu and treated many patients referred to Honolulu from Guam and the CNMI. Dr. Valero performs retinal surgery and implants, and currently practices medicine at The Medical City and The Makati Medical Center, Manila. The number of CNMI residents receiving open-heart surgery in Makati is increasing, and those who did were thankful and lived productive lives. All decent people, rich or poor, desire the best health care there is for their children and elders. This is also true in Japan, China, and the Philippines.

TAX REBATES: For the last 3 tax years, the Fitial Administration issued tax rebates to taxpayers. The opposition and critics were clamoring to cut and eventually eliminate the rebates/tax refunds. Cutting or eliminating the rebates/tax refunds is the same as increasing tax. In the end, the consumers will eventually pay for the impact on businesses. It would be foolish to increase tax when the economy is on the decline. Rightfully, the rebates belong to the taxpayers. It's something they can count on every year to help with expenses. Ben & Eloy made sure that the Cover Over money goes to the taxpayers, and not to the Legislature for appropriations. The money belongs to you, taxpayers.

CHANGE ALREADY CAME: The Fitial Administration started the Change. The opposition, HA, just now is offering Change. "The Change train already left." Governor Ben Fitial started making changes nearly 4 years ago for the betterment of the CNMI and her people, while Heinz and Arnold stood, watched and criticized from the sidelines. From the first day Governor Ben Fitial took office he capped the salaries of nearly all his Cabinet members, took away non-essential vehicles, cell phones, and disallowed accumulation of annual leave for all Cabinet members. But that was only the beginning. The Fitial Administration implemented cost-cutting measures to minimize operations costs, reduce waste, and improve performance, efficiency, organizational functions and teamwork using the least amount of resources and bringing expertise, ethos, expectations and performance together to improve standards.

CHANGE FOR WHAT? Heinz and Arnold promoted their own political agenda disguised in their political scheme for Change. Change for what? HA's self-serving, Hidden Political agenda, covered in "sheepskin" was designed to fool the people. Let us join Ben & Eloy in defending our self-government and our rights and privileges to grow and develop our economy.

LET US VOTE FOR OUR CHILDREN'S FUTURE: James Baldwin wrote: "How much time do you want for your problems?" Don't take up the time of our children. Don't take up the time of our children's children. [The opposition] have already taken up the time of our father, mother, uncles, aunts, brothers and sisters.

Don't take chances. The risk is too great. Stick with Proven Experience and Proven Leadership to Guide the CNMI During These Difficult Times.

Please let us vote for our children's future.

Vote for Ben & Eloy.

Thank you for your vote of confidence.

Paid for by Republicans, Democrats and Independent Friends of Ben & Eloy.

Letter to the Editor

Credentials, please?

I have searched and searched for Heinz's bio-data or resume but quite honestly I could not find anything. It is not even on the Heinz/ Arnold Web site. I need to know the background skills of Heinz that must qualify him to govern the CNMI. In the absence of his credentials I cannot say that he can fix my car if I don't even know if he is an auto mechanic. I wan to know the following:

■ What formal educational does Heinz possess? Does he have a high school diploma? A college degree and in what field?

■ Does he have a management experience? Did he manage a government department or a large private company?

■ Does he have a financial background needed to understand the mechanics and intricacies of financial management? How an economy works?

■ Did he work with the federal government in Region 9 and/ or Washington, D.C.?

■ Has he ever addressed the U.S. Congress as a former speaker on issues that affect the livelihood of the CNMI people? Like negotiate with the federal government on self-government? Submerged landownership? 902 Capital Improvement Funding?

These are but a few basic requirements that a person must possess in order to qualify him to govern the CNMI people. To effectively manage the affairs of the CNMI we need a person with a well-rounded experience in public and private services in areas of *management, lawmaking, governance,* and *private business management*. The CNMI is already a sophisticated society with U.S. federal relations, international tourism markets, foreign workforce program, and foreign diplomatic relationships and global economic participation. To offer the CNMI public "change" for the better, one must be equipped with better skills than an incumbent governor. If you do not have the "needed tools" like academic credentials and extensive experience in management of people and finance then you cannot make any change for the good. I am sure of this and you can take it to the bank. If you are not and never was a cook, do not attempt to cook because you will surely mess up the soup.

Marvin S. Pangelinan
Kagman III, Saipan

Think before you vote

Your readers probably have not noticed that the electric power seems to getting less and less stable. During the last two days our power at home on Capital Hill has gone off four times. I feel really sorry to ask the question: Is the governor's house of cards he built in the CNMI starting to crumble? CUC has been under the governor's state of emergency for longer than I can remember. Is this fact good management, planning, or even good practices? No, it is crisis management! I ask the public: Is this the way we want to run the CNMI?

Tuesday's *Saipan Tribune* carried this story: "House panel wants overhaul of CHC, issues almost 70 directives after oversight hearing." The newspaper used one word to describe the governor's actions to solve the problem: "superfluous." I am a simple farm boy so I looked up this word, it means "unnecessary"! The article continues to report the House Committee comments, "The governor could have, and should have, intervened since the inception of the problems at CHC." Now that there is an election just around the corner his supporters are saying we can count on the leadership, management and planning of the governor. If you believe this I have a bridge in New York City that I would like to sell you!

The mark of a good manager is the people he selects to do the people's work! Does anyone remember that the governor selected three key people who are now convicted felons, serving time in a federal penitentiary? That trial embarrassed all of us. Can we trust this man to select people with high principles that will make us proud of our CNMI leaders?

Think before you vote, the results will have consequences!

Frank Stewart
Capital Hill, Saipan

Thank you, olomwaay, and si yu'us ma'ase!

Dear friends, family, and wonderful supporters near and far: I want to thank each and every single one of you for the many months of hard work in supporting my bid for the Senate. While we came up short of our goal, we were able to finish a very, very strong and respectable 3rd in a field of 8. I know that this race would not have been as close if I did not have your untiring support and vote of confidence. Please accept my sincerest Thanks, *olomwaay*, and *un sen dangkulu na si yu'us ma'ase*!

The future remains exciting for me. I am weighing several options at the moment. One thing that remains constant, however, is my love for the people of the CNMI and these beautiful islands we call home. Rest assured that I will continue to serve our people and our communities as I have done all these years in and out of public office.

Once, again, I extend my most heartfelt gratitude to all of you. I love you all!

Peace and God bless!

Cinta Matagolai Kaipat
Koblerville, Saipan

Message of appreciation

On behalf of all our family and friends, we would like to take this opportunity to extend to all the people of the Northern Mariana Islands, most especially to the voters of Precinct 1 and all voters from off-island, our deepest gratitude and sincere appreciation for your continued support, contributions, trust and vote of confidence this 2009 General Election, and many more thanks and kudos to all who participated and demonstrated how much they appreciate our community and voiced that appreciation on Election Day.

To all candidates, thank you for your courage and perseverance to stand up for the people toward bringing positive changes to our islands, despite the difficult times we are facing. Furthermore, to the winning candidates, congratulations! We, the people, look forward to the next three years for you to exercise your proven leadership for the betterment of the people of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Once again, I urge everyone to continue their participation in the process of government by partaking in this important upcoming runoff election on Nov. 23, 2009. Your vote of confidence is crucial for the livelihood of the people of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Best of luck to all the candidates. Thank you and God bless us all.

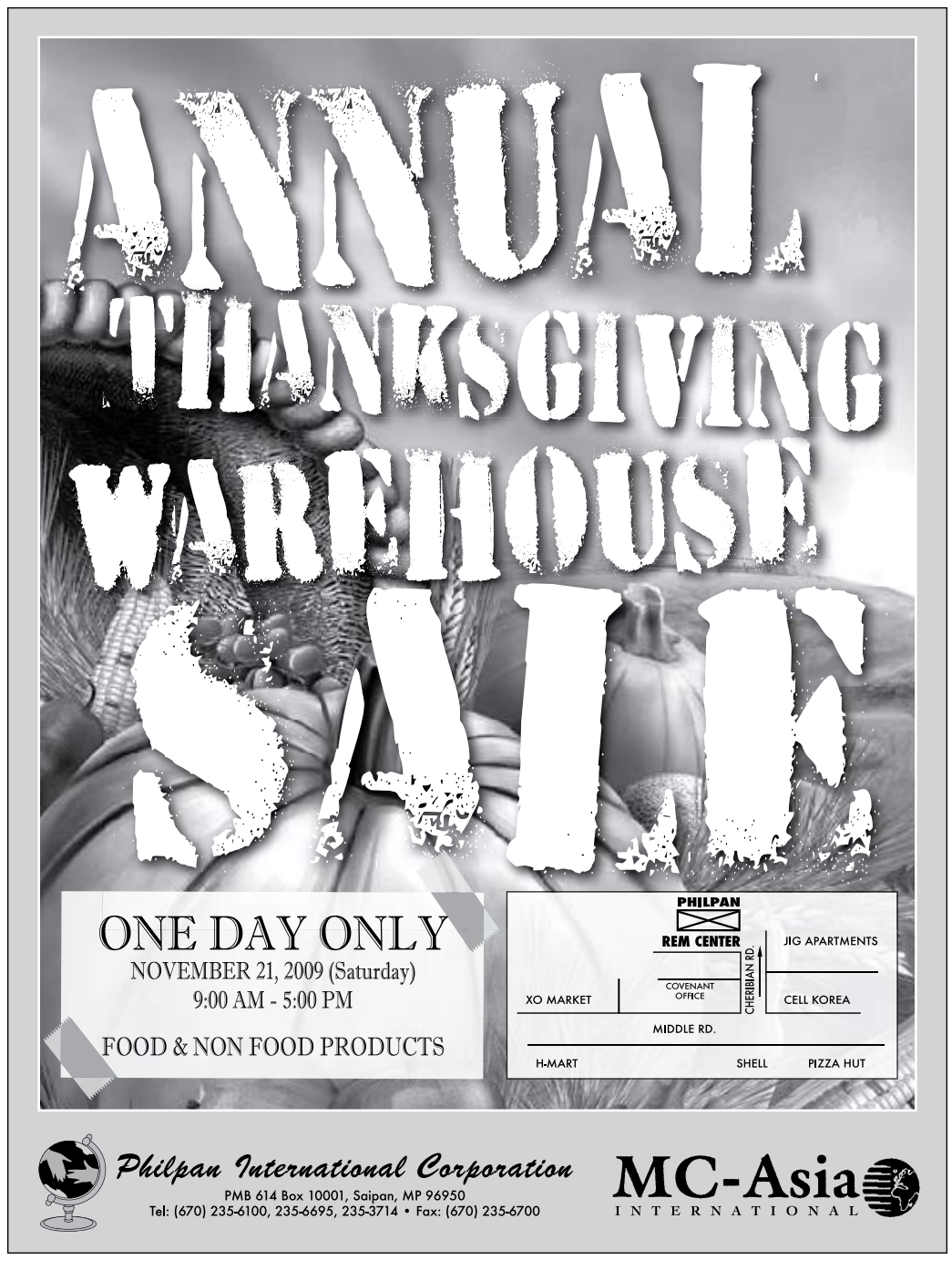
Raymond Ulloa Palacios
Dandan, Saipan

'Sorry'

To all CNMI residents: I'm writing to you all to apologize for what I did. My name is Rose Peredo and I'm a U.S. citizen residing here in the CNMI. Because of the economy I allowed myself to commit a fraudulent marriage. I got caught and now I'm paying the consequences. I've been ordered by the court to pay fees and to do community services. It's been hard these past few months and I've not only shamed myself but my family as well. The things I gained from that marriage can't compare to the things that I'm losing now. I have come to realize that it was not worth it. If I could turn back time, I would not do such a thing. Please find it in your hearts to forgive me. I know what I did was not right under any circumstances. This is a scar of shame I have to live with. So please don't do the same mistake I did. It's never worth it to break the law. Once again, please forgive me.

Rose Peredo
Susupe, Saipan

Saipan, Tinian and Rota!
Join us this SATURDAY morning, November 21, for a fun-filled walk with PSS!
LIVE HEALTHY:
Life Walk
with
PSS
Registration Information:
Saipan: 5:30 a.m. to 7:00 a.m. – 13 Fishermen
Tinian: 5:30 a.m. to 7:00 a.m. – Tachonga Beach
Rota: 5:30 a.m. to 7:00 a.m. – Tétoto Beach



BREAKDOWN

From Page 1

pital Administration Pete U. Untalan.

More than two decades later, that promise of a modern CHC has become questionable.

The September 2008 IG report outraged the CNMI government, mainly because it was not given the chance to first review the findings. Nonetheless, CNMI Public Health Secretary Joseph Kevin P. Villagomez conceded: "Most of the facts contained in this report are probably accurate."

A year later the perplexing issues identified in the IG report still exist, perhaps even worse. So much so that Gov. Benigno R. Fitial declared a state of emergency in September 2009 to hire non-U.S. and non-Canada-licensed doctors and to funnel funds to the hospital without having to seek approval from the Legislature.

The percolating problems at CHC did not come to the forefront until June 2009. Roughly five months before the Nov. 7, 2009, local elections, the House of Representatives, particularly the Committee on Health, Education, and Welfare, decided to conduct public hearings.

"As chairman, it is my duty to suggest any solution. I got to find out the operations, issues… mistreatment from administration [at CHC]," committee chair Ralph DLG. Torres said. Torres has since been elected to the CNMI Senate.

At a public hearing at the Garapan Elementary School cafeteria on Sept. 23, 2009, three hospital unit managers showed up: Anthony Raho, in-patient pharmacy; Maureen E. Sebangiol, respiratory care services; and Pamela Carhill, physical therapy department.

It was the first time currently employed hospital unit managers publicly voiced their frustrations, which stemmed from two things: lack of funds and mismanagement.

JUDE O. MARFIL

The House Committee on Health, Education, and Welfare, chaired by Rep. Ralph DLG. Torres, holds a public hearing at the Garapan Elementary School cafeteria on Sept. 23, 2009.

By coming to the hearing, the three managers were putting their jobs on the line. In the past, anyone who speaks against management could face retribution in the form of non-renewal of contracts, delay in salaries, removal of housing benefits, or perennial graveyard shifts, according to employees who spoke only on condition of anonymity.

Her intention in attending the HEW hearing, Sebangiol said, was not to disparage CHC, where she worked for 16 years, but to merely voice the sentiments of the ancillary staff. "[The hospital] is my life ... I want [CHC] to work and I will do everything in my power to make it so," she said.

State-of-the-art hospital

Plans to build CHC began in the early 1980s. The idea was to replace the rundown Dr. Torres Hospital, where Northern Marianas College is now located, and consolidate medical services in one building.

Only a few people on Saipan knew about the intricacies of the hospital's past. Untalan, then administrator for Guam Memorial Hospital, said he advised CNMI public health officials on the hospital's blueprint. One of those Commonwealth officials was former public health director Jose T. Villagomez, the father of the current public health secretary.

With $25 million allocation from the U.S. Congress, the 86-bed hospital along Middle Road in Lower Navy Hill opened in November 1986 to serve Saipan's population of 15,000.

"What was not factored in was the explosion of business-es," Untalan said.

Based on the 2000 U.S. census, Saipan's population ballooned to 69,221. By the time CHC began accepting patients, a handful of garment factories had already opened. These factories brought in thousands of workers from China, the Philippines and Thailand to manufacture clothes for U.S.-based brands, such as Ralph Lauren, Liz Claiborne, Gap, Levi Strauss, Calvin Klein, Tommy Hilfiger and Abercrombie & Fitch.

Not much thought was given to sustainability," Untalan said. "[CHC] was socialized medicine at its best."

"Running a hospital is complex. Running it in a remote location is even more daunting," he said. Filling up positions for doctors, nurses and ancillary staff; sourcing and upgrading of equipment; procuring medical supplies; collecting and storing patient information; billing and collecting payment from patients and insurance firms; and maintaining the upkeep of the facility were among the concerns that a hospital operator needs to address.

"So for a hospital that is 100 percent supported by government and has very little island economy, can it support a complex system?" Untalan pointed out.

Money changes everything

Longtime CHC employees said the rapid downfall of CHC began in 2005. Garment factories started to close and tourist arrivals declined after Japan Airlines left. From $217.9 million in fiscal year 2004, the general fund revenues dropped to $163 million in fiscal year 2007.

Many lost their jobs. They could no longer keep their insurance. People were missing their medical checkups. Unless their condition was dire, patients would not see their doctor.

However, CHC lacked specialist-physicians and equipment to diagnose—much less treat—seriously ill patients.

This is why patients are being sent to Guam, Japan, Hawaii, or the Philippines for treatment under the CNMI's Medical Referral Services program, which has been getting a huge chunk of DPH's annual budget allocation.

Financial data showed that of the $39.45 million DPH spent in fiscal year 2008, 13 percent or $4.94 million went to medical referral. Of the $49.20 million DPH spent in fiscal year 2009, 17 percent or $8.58 million went to medical referral.

As for CHC's overall finances, expenses went up to $26.51 million in 2009 from $22.05 million in 2008. Meanwhile, allotments declined to $19.57 million in 2009 from $21 million in 2008. As a result, CHC's deficit increased to $6.93 million in 2009 from $1.05 million in 2008.

"We have been doing more with less," Untalan said.

Compounding the hospital's financial woes is collection.

From 1986 to the present, CHC has over $118 million to collect. Of this amount, $15.8 million are from patients who have been billed but not yet referred to a collection agency. A total of $10.7 million are from patients that have been referred to a collection agency. "The patients got the bill … but [they] are not paying," said Esther L. Muña, DPH's chief financial officer.

Muña said the government's arrears, including its share in Medicaid expenses, have reached $75 million. "The government just does not have the money. How can it prioritize paying a hospital that it is providing funding for anyway?"

Medicaid is a joint federal-local program to finance health care coverage for certain low-income individuals. The amounts are set in the law. In 2008, the CNMI got only $4.8 million. Medicaid will not match any expenditure above the spending limit it has set. "Once we reach the set amount, the CNMI is responsible for 100 percent of the amount owed to providers," she said.

Even though Medicare has been the hospital's most reliable payer, CHC still lost money from these patients. Medicare is the federal health insurance for people 65 years old and above, the age group for CHC's Hemodialysis Center.

Latest available CHC data showed that in fiscal year 2008, the Hemodialysis Center had 1,165 visits from 137 patients. This translated to a billing of $8.16 million. But of this amount, only $6.16 million was paid, leaving almost $2 million in receivables. This happened because patients could not pay their 20 percent share of the hospital bills.

Muña said that for the monthly hemodialysis treatment, Medicare covers 80 percent of the $7,000 cost per treatment. Every month that a patient seeks dialysis, he has to pay $1,500. Most, if not all, insurance providers in the CNMI do not cover hemodialysis treatment. So a patient ends up shouldering the expense. Hemodialysis is a method of removing excess fluid, minerals and wastes from a patient suffering from kidney failure.

"How do you collect from patients if you want to make sure that they are compliant with their treatment, because if they don't they die?" Muña lamented. "I don't want the patient to die."

Ironically CHC would occasionally only manage to collect once the patient was dead. "When we see that there is an announcement that there is a probate case going on we just present our bills," she said.

"The patients that we serve are poor. If that's what [the Legislature] expect[s] from us, have us funded," Muña said. "I am not a good collector. My heart goes out to the patients … Give us the money. The collection side is a difficult thing."

Mismanagement

For months beginning February 2009, DPH, which operates CHC, did not have full-time secretary. Villagomez was in and out of the hospital. In April 2009, he finally went on medical leave to undergo surgery in California.

Untalan temporarily took over the helm of the department. Since he had to focus on the many facets of DPH operations, Untalan asked John Flores to oversee the hospital. Flores is the facility maintenance and support administrator. When Untalan was off-island, either Muña or John Tagabuel would be appointed. Tagabuel is the

See BREAKDOWN on Page 16

SHIPPING SCHEDULE

MARIANA EXPRESS LINES PTE. LTD.

Outbound from Asia	Voyage No.	ETD Jakarta	ETD Bangkok	ETD P. Kelang	ETD Melbourne	ETD Singapore	ETD Hochiminh	ETD Busan	ETD Kobe	ETD Shanghai	ETD Auckland	ETD Manila	ETD Hongkong	ETD Kaoshiung	ETD Naha
MELL SENOKO	030E	11/7 Sat	11/5 Thu	11/5 Thu	11/3 Tue	10/31 Sat	11/13 Fri	11/9 Mon	11/8 Sun	11/1 Sun	11/1 Sun	11/9 Mon	11/13 Fri	11/15 Sun	11/17 Tue
MELL SENTOSA	029E	11/14 Sat	11/12 Thu	11/12 Thu	11/10 Tue	11/7 Sat	11/20 Fri	11/16 Mon	11/15 Sun	11/8 Sun	11/8 Sun	11/16 Mon	11/20 Fri	11/22 Sun	11/24 Tue
MELL SEMBAWANG	022E	11/21 Sat	11/19 Thu	11/19 Thu	11/17 Tue	11/14 Sat	11/27 Fri	11/23 Mon	11/22 Sun	11/15 Sun	11/15 Sun	11/23 Mon	11/27 Fri	11/29 Sun	12/1 Tue
MELL SENOKO	031E	11/28 Sat	11/26 Thu	11/26 Thu	11/24 Tue	11/21 Sat	12/4 Fri	11/30 Mon	11/29 Sun	11/22 Sun	11/22 Sun	11/30 Mon	12/4 Fri	12/6 Sun	12/8 Tue
MELL SENTOSA	030E	12/5 Sat	12/3 Thu	12/3 Thu	12/1 Tue	11/28 Sat	12/11 Fri	12/7 Mon	12/6 Sun	11/29 Sun	11/29 Sun	12/7 Mon	12/11 Fri	12/13 Sun	12/15 Tue
MELL SEMBAWANG	023E	12/12 Sat	12/10 Thu	12/10 Thu	12/8 Tue	12/5 Sat	12/18 Fri	12/14 Mon	12/13 Sun	12/6 Sun	12/6 Sun	12/14 Mon	12/18 Fri	12/20 Sun	12/22 Tue

Inbound from Asia	Voyage No.	ETA Guam	ETD Guam	ETA Saipan	ETA Yap	ETA Koror	ETA Davao	ETA GenSan	ETA Cebu	ETA Hongkong	ETA Kaoshiung	ETA Busan	ETA Yokohama	ETA Manila	ETA Singapore
MELL SENOKO	030E	11/21 Sat	11/22 Sun	11/22 Sun	11/24 Tue	11/25 Wed	11/27 Fri	11/29 Sun	SKIP	12/4 Fri	12/5 Sat	12/10 Thu	12/29 Tue	12/13 Sun	12/9 Wed
MELL SENTOSA	029E	11/28 Sat	11/29 Sun	11/29 Sun	12/1 Tue	12/2 Wed	12/4 Fri	12/6 Sun	SKIP	12/11 Fri	12/12 Sat	12/17 Thu	1/5 Tue	12/20 Sun	12/16 Wed
MELL SEMBAWANG	022E	12/5 Sat	12/6 Sun	12/6 Sun	SKIP	12/9 Wed	12/11 Fri	12/13 Sun	SKIP	12/18 Fri	12/19 Sat	12/24 Thu	1/12 Tue	12/27 Sun	12/23 Wed
MELL SENOKO	031E	12/12 Sat	12/13 Sun	12/13 Sun	12/15 Tue	12/16 Wed	12/18 Fri	12/20 Sun	SKIP	12/25 Fri	12/26 Sat	12/31 Thu	1/19 Tue	1/3 Sun	12/30 Wed
MELL SENTOSA	030E	12/19 Sat	12/20 Sun	12/20 Sun	SKIP	12/23 Wed	12/25 Fri	12/27 Sun	SKIP	1/1 Fri	1/2 Sat	1/7 Thu	1/26 Tue	1/10 Sun	1/6 Wed
MELL SEMBAWANG	023E	12/26 Sat	12/27 Sun	12/27 Sun	SKIP	12/30 Wed	1/1 Fri	1/3 Sun	SKIP	1/8 Fri	1/9 Sat	1/14 Thu	2/2 Tue	1/17 Sun	1/13 Wed

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BREAKDOWN

From Page 15

deputy secretary for public health administration.

"Who's making decisions and based on what information?" asked Sebangiol, a Stanford University graduate.

During his 13 years at CHC, Raho said he's had about nine hospital administrators. "It seems that there's one direction that is being taken with one administration and [when] the political situation changes, a new administration comes in and we're going 180 degrees in different direction," Raho said during the public hearing.

Instead of being rewarded for long years of service, Carhill said, CHC removed benefits such as night deferential, on-call fees and the $600 to $800 in housing allowance. These affected nurses, physical and respiratory therapists, radiology and laboratory technicians, and in-patient pharmacists.

"We're the ones who are sticking it out. Instead, things are being pulled away," said Carhill, who has worked at CHC since August 2002. "We are exhausted trying to make ends meet. It's frustrating."

Echoing Carhill, Sebangiol said, "Doctors do not run the hospital. They can give instructions over the phone. As long as there is the nurse, respiratory therapist, [staff in-charge of] laboratory, radiology, in-house pharmacy and physical therapy, those patients will be taken care of."

Another nagging problem reported is the communication gap between management and medical staff and employees.

"It's very unhealthy to not have a visible and consistent leadership presence that should be walking around the hospital once every two weeks and giving people pep talks," Dr. Shirish Balachandra of the Emergency Medicine Department said in an interview.

"In the absence of positive feedback there is a tremendous amount of negative feedback. The leadership is more than happy to get involved to let people know when a patient complains," Balachandra said. "But you can't just have one unopposed voice. It engenders a certain enmity among the staff and that gets directed to the patients because all [the nurses] hear is that the patients don't appreciate them," he added.

Another issue is the pent up animosity between civil servants and off-island hires. Off-island hires get more salary and benefits whereas most of the civil servants' wages have remained stagnant since 1997, said a supervisor who only agreed to talk candidly on condition of anonymity.

Even if CHC was not in deficit, Muña said, civil servants could not get an increase until the salary freeze is lifted.

In the late 1990s, then-governor Pedro P. Tenorio issued an executive order stopping grade promotions. That order has remained in effect. Even though a hospital employee of five years could be qualified for an internal promotion, he still could not get the salary that was being offered for the vacant higher position he was applying for.

Untalan

Villagomez

But any applicant who worked in the private sector could get the salary that was being offered for that vacant higher position. "They're going to be making more money than my employee who's already here," Muña said. "I hate that. How can you manage a unit when you have employees that are not happy with what they are getting?"

On deaf ears

Villagomez said they have been "yelling and screaming," asking the CNMI Legislature to increase DPH budget so they could hire more doctors and nurses and give their staff housing benefits.

"But they [lawmakers] don't listen," he says. "As long as we continue to provide services to indigent population, we would need government subsidy."

Responding to the charges of mismanagement, "What can I do if I get sick? I know I make mistakes but I do my best," said Villagomez, 50, who was first appointed DPH secretary, at age 36, under the administration of former governor Pedro P. Tenorio. Villagomez finished two master's degrees: one in psychology from Washington State University and the other in public health administration from Harvard University.

"Now that I am back, I am rolling up my sleeves and working on implementing our plans for the hospital," he said.

Meanwhile, Untalan believes the legislators behind the HEW public hearings were disingenuous and did not really mean to help the hospital. Rather, the legislators merely wanted to retaliate because Untalan refused to grant them favors.

"I question the wisdom of these people. I know they have a bone to pick," Untalan said. "I think I am being harassed."

Some time in June 2009, Untalan said House Speaker Arnold I. Palacios called him to ask if he could hire a "this lady." But Untalan said he ignored Palacios because, according to the appropriations law the House passed, CHC was not supposed to hire non-medical, non-nursing employees. Efforts were made to obtain comments from Palacios but he has not responded to e-mail and phone inquiries as of press time.

Rep. David Apatang, HEW vice-chair, also called to ask why a "certain Jean Santos," was being billed more than expected. Santos' wife was originally referred to the Philippines, where airfare is usually less than $500. But the patient preferred to go to Hawaii, where airfare is over $1,000. "By rules and regulations, if there was a change at the behest of the patient, pay the difference," Untalan said.

"Why is Jean Santos being forced to pay extra when other people didn't?" Apatang asked. "Pete [Untalan] is just crying."

Contrary to Untalan's claims, Apatang said it was the HEW committee's decision to conduct the public hearings following concerns about the condition of the hospital. "I don't think it's true that we just wanted to get back at him."

Untalan said he is also being punished for rejecting Torres' request to become a member of the health department's recruitment committee.

"I don't want to micromanage but I want to see the transaction … the correspondence from the headhunters and DPH. I don't believe [DPH officials] are aggressive enough [in hiring]," Torres said.

But Untalan said it was not a legislator's job to get involved in a department's personnel selection. Besides, there were also some confidentiality issues to consider. Only DPH officials were allowed to look at personnel files. "Ralph [Torres] is jumping the gun … He should look at legislative policy and how to improve the health care system. Maybe take bigger issues, like health reform. Maybe that is something that will trigger his brain."

"[The hospital] is a complex organization," a fact that legislators do not understand, said Untalan. "It requires people that actually know the system."

Untalan agreed that CHC was indeed "at the crossroads of a total breakdown." But so is the entire CNMI. And if both the Executive and Legislative branches fail to come up with ways to increase revenue stream, then the hospital would not have the money to reverse its deteriorating condition. "I am not saying we have no faults. I am not making excuses. [But consider] the intensity of what we are operating under," he said.

In the end, the future of the hospital, said Untalan, rests on the hands of the CNMI Legislature. After all, it "controls the purse."

To be continued.

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
State Board of Education
Public School System
P. O. Box 501370, Saipan, MP 96950

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
PSS RFP 09-036

"TO DESIGN AND DEVELOP A WEBSITE FOR PSS CENTRAL OFFICE AND 20 INDIVIDUAL SCHOOL SITES"

The CNMI Public School System is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from individuals or firms interested in providing **"To Design and Develop a Website for PSS Central Office and 20 Individual School Sites"**. Detailed information on the scope of work is available beginning November 18, 2009 at the PSS Procurement & Supply Office located on the 3rd floor of the NMI Retirement Fund Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950.

There will be a Pre-Proposal Meeting on Wednesday, December 9, 2009 at 10:00 A.M. at the COE Conference Room, 3rd floor Retirement Fund Building. Questions must be in writing and addressed to Joe Torres, E-Rate Coordinator via fax to 670.664-3791 or e-mail to joe.torres@pss.cnmi.mp no later than December 12, 2009.

Proposals shall be in a sealed envelope face marked "RFP 09-036" containing (1) original and three (3) copies and submitted to the PSS Procurement and Supply Office no later than Friday, December 18, 2009 at 10.30 A.M. Any proposal submitted after the aforementioned date and time will not be accepted.

The Public School System reserves the right to award single or multiple awards or to reject any or all proposals, in whole or in part, if to do so is in the best interest of the Public School System.

/S/ Rita A. Sablan, Ed.D.
Commissioner of Education

/S/ Robert Florian
Procurement Officer

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
State Board of Education
Public School System
P. O. Box 501370, Saipan, MP 96950

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
PSS RFP 09-037

"Design and Development of a Data Management System for the Public School System"

The CNMI Public School System is soliciting competitive sealed proposals for the **"Design and Development of a Data Management System for the Public School System.** The Scope of Work and Proposal Package is available beginning November 18, 2009 at the PSS Procurement & Supply Office located on the 3rd floor of the NM Retirement Fund Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan, CNMI.

There will be a Pre-proposal Meeting for Interested Proposers on Monday, December 7, 2009 at 9:30 AM. in the 3rd Floor Conference room in the NMI Retirement Fund Building.

Questions may be faxed to Joe Torres, PSS E-Rate Coordinator on 670.664.3791 or e-mailed to "joe.torres@pss.cnmi.mp" **no later than December 11, 2009.**

Proposals shall be in a sealed envelope marked "PSS RFP 09-037" containing one (1) original and three (3) copies and submitted to the PSS Procurement and Supply Office **no later than December 18, 2009 at 10:00 AM.** Any proposal submitted after the aforementioned date and time will not be accepted under any circumstances.

/S/ Rita A. Sablan, Ed.D.
Commissioner of Education

/S/ Robert Florian
Procurement Officer

Brilliant Star School hosts Holiday Bazaar this weekend

The annual Holiday Bazaar, organized by Brilliant Star School, will once again open the holiday season this year.

This fifth annual event will be held Saturday, Nov. 21 from 9am to 5pm at the Palms Resort, San Souci Hall. The event is an opportunity for artists and other vendors to showcase their arts, and for island residents and visitors to get an early start on buying unique and beautiful gifts for the holidays.

The daylong event is also graced by performances throughout the day by various community cultural and arts groups, as well as raffles with prizes generously donated by community businesses.

"We're looking forward to another year of showcasing our island's arts, crafts and gifts. We still have a few tables available for any interested artists or vendors," said Heather Kennedy, one of the event organizers. Interested vendors may contact the school at 323-STAR (323-7827)

In the past, shoppers have commented on the convenience and comfort of finding a variety of island gifts in a single place ahead of the holidays. The Holiday Bazaar has been likened to a mini Flame Tree Arts Festival with air-conditioning. Some of the arts shoppers can expect to find this year include the ceramics of Nancy Provido, the paintings of Greg Elliott, the handmade jewelry of artists Kathryn Fuller, Nava Khorram and Leila Staffler, the island jams of Deece Revilla, and the crafts, carvings and paintings of some of the island's best known artists.

The highlights of the day are the performances that take place throughout the event. This year, performers will include Doremi School of Music, Saipan Community School Ukelele Band, Glushko's Academy of Performing Arts, Keynotes School of Music, Angel's International School of Dance, The Saipan Grand Hotel Singing Superstars Champion.

Raffle prizes have been donated through the generosity of various island businesses, and this year the lucky winners can expect to take home PIC waterpark passes, a Motorola w377 GSM camera phone donated by Docomo, and gift certificates from Aqua Resort Club, Saipan Grand Hotel and expressions, to name a few. Drawings will be held hourly.

"In the past, the event had been held at the Multipurpose Center, but because of the use of the facility by the election commission, we are holding it at the San Souci Hall," said Lina Villagomez, a member of the organizing committee. "The use of the room is made possible through the generosity of Palms Resort, and we are very appreciative of their support for this great community event."

"We expect a vibrant crowd, given that during the same day, the ballet rehearsal is being held there, as well as a health fair. And of course, the vendors can expect visits from the tourists staying at the Palms Resort, which is enjoying high occupancy," she added.

Bento box lunches will be available and a special arts and crafts area will be set up so that children can remain occupied during the day. "We look forward to welcoming the community, once again, to this wonderful event which opens the holiday season," said Kennedy. ***(PR)***

Close Up Foundation gets $1M Interior grant

WASHINGTON—Close Up Foundation, the nation's largest non-profit civic education organization, said Friday that it has been awarded a grant of $1 million from the U.S. Department of the Interior to conduct civic education programs in areas under the jurisdiction of the Office of Insular Affairs.

The technical assistance grant will provide funds for students and teachers from American Samoa, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Guam, Federated States of Micronesia, Republic of the Marshall Islands, Republic of Palau and the United States Virgin Islands to participate on Close Up Washington and other island-based programs.

Close Up is planning to conduct a Washington Insular Areas Program in February 2010. Students and teachers will spend a week in the nation's capital meeting with federal officials, engaging in public policy workshops, current issues debates and visiting historical sites. They will also be traveling to New York City, Philadelphia and Williamsburg, Virginia as part of their Close Up experience.

"We are pleased to be able to offer students from the Insular

Babauta

Areas these Close Up opportunities," said Tony Babauta, Interior's Assistant Secretary for Insular Areas. "These civic education programs provide our young people with a deeper understanding and appreciation of government and the role that each individual plays in our democratic system."

The Close Up programs address the educational needs of the insular areas and fosters the knowledge and skills needed for island residents to effectively participate in the United States model of democracy. The program for educators provides training and materials to improve teacher civic education skills. The programs also seek to increase mutual understanding between the diverse citizenry of the United States with special emphasis on public policy concerns and culture.

"Close Up is pleased that Congressional leaders and the Interior Department have renewed our long-standing partnership providing transformative civic education experiences for students and teachers in the islands communities. We look forward to again working with the education leaders in each of these communities," said Timothy S. Davis, president and CEO, Close Up Foundation.

Davis added: "Our island participants add so much richness to our program. They educate their fellow students and teachers by offering their unique political and cultural perspectives to the public policy debate."

Close Up has been providing civic education programming to the Pacific Islands under Office of Insular Areas grants for over 20 years. In addition to the Insular Areas Washington Program, Close Up conducts and funds local civic education classroom and other programming as well as student workshops at island-based education conferences. ***(PR)***

Continental to auction trip for two to the eight wonders of the world

HOUSTON—Continental Airlines announced yesterday the opportunity for its frequent flyers to bid their miles on a premium around-the-world trip to visit eight wonders of the world in an online auction at auction.continental.com.

"We are pleased to celebrate joining Star Alliance by bringing this unique auction package to our most loyal customers," said Mark Bergsrud, Continental's senior vice president of marketing programs and distribution. "This is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity."

The winning bidder and a companion will travel from their hometown to Continental's Houston hub at Bush Intercontinental Airport and continue the journey in business class on Continental and other Star Alliance member airlines to visit the following destinations and sites: Rio de Janeiro, statue of *Christ the Redeemer* , Rome, *Colosseum;*Delhi, *Taj Mahal;* Amman, *Petra;* Cairo, *Great Pyramid of Giza;* Beijing, *Great Wall of China;* Mexico City, *Chichen Itza;* and Lima, *Machu Picchu.*

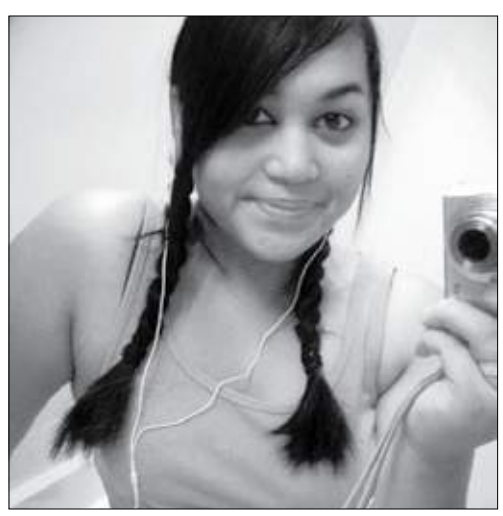
The package includes hotel accommodations at each destination provided by Starwood Hotels and Resorts Worldwide (where applicable). Airport transfers and private tours of each of the eight wonders will be provided by Continental Airlines Vacations. Bidding closes at 9:30 a.m. on Dec. 9, 2009.

Continental Airlines is the world's fifth largest airline. For more company information, go to continental.com.

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

Happy sweet 16th birthday to Princess Julia Margret C. Salas. With love, from your Concepcion-Crisostomo family and Villagomez-Salas family.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS BAR EXAMINATION

The Northern Mariana Islands Bar Examinations (MBE, MPT, and Essay) will be administered on Wednesday, February 24, 2010 and Thursday, February 25, 2010. Interested applicants may obtain the application form and necessary information from the Bar Administrator by calling telephone no. (670) 236-9800, visiting the judiciary's website at http://www.justice.gov.mp, or by writing to P.O. Box 502165, Saipan, MP 96950.

All applications and required fees must be submitted to the Bar Administrator no later than December 23, 2009.

Dated this 6th day of November, 2009.

NORA V. BORJA
Bar Administrator

COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

P.O. Box 502149, Saipan MP 96950
Tel: (670) 234-6245/6293/7145/7146 • Fax: (670) 235-7147
Email: administration@cda.gov.mp • Website: www.cda.gov.mp

NOTICE OF PUBLIC AUCTION

November 18, 2009

Notice is hereby given, that pursuant to that certain **Writ of Execution on Personal Property** by the **CNMI Superior Court in Civil Action No. 04-0588C**, the Commonwealth Development Authority ("CDA"), **together with assistance of the CNMI Department of Public Safety**, shall auction off to the highest bidder **assets of Westpac Freight including furniture, fixtures, trucks and various other items.**

An inventory listing may be obtained at CDA Office, Gualo Rai or on our website at www.cda.gov.mp.

The auction shall be subject to the following terms and conditions:

1. The items are being sold **"AS IS"** and **"WHERE IS"**;
2. The items are being sold **WITHOUT WARRANTY** of any type;
3. The public auction will be held at the **Westpac Freight Parking Lot, Lower Base, Saipan on Friday, November 20, 2009 at 2:00 p.m.**;
4. Terms of the sale are cash, certified check, or credit card (Visa & Mastercard); and
5. CDA reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to withdraw this notice and postpone the sale from time to time.

Full payment of the bid amount is required before the property can be removed from site. Payment must be received before end of business day, 4:30 p.m. Friday, November 20, 2009. Failure to make full payment will cause award to be null and void.

CDA is attempting to collect a debt and any payments received will be used for that purpose. Any interested party or person may contact Mr. Oscar C. Camacho, Loan Manager, CDA at 234-7145 for further information or to inspect the items. Failure to inspect the property will not constitute grounds for any claim, adjustment or rescission by any buyer. All sales are final.

Dated this 18th day of November, 2009

Commonwealth Development Authority
/s/ Manuel A. Sablan
Executive Director

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID

ITB10-DPH-018 (A-D)

SUBMISSION / OPENING DATE: NOVEMBER 25, 2009 • TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"PURCHASE OF TWENTY-SEVEN (27) BATTERY BACK-UP 625VA, EIGHT (8) 24 PORT NETWORK SWITCH, EIGHTEEN (18) COMPUTER HARDWARE UPGRADE AND ONE (1) 250 GB EXTERNAL HARD DRIVE FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE PICKED-UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE DR., SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THIS IS A FEDERALLY FUNDED PROJECT; AS SUCH, LOCAL PREFERENCE IS NOT AVAILABLE, BECAUSE ITS USE IS PROHIBITED BY FEDERAL LAW GRANTING FUNDING FOR THIS PROJECT.

/s/ **JOSEPH K.P. VILLAGOMEZ**
SECRETARY OF HEALTH

/s/ **HERMAN S. SABLAN**
Director, P&S

TOKIO MARINE & NICHIDO FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY, LTD.
NOTICE OF INTENTION TO WITHDRAW

Following a strategic review of our business in the region, notice is being given that Tokio Marine & Nichido Fire Insurance Co., Ltd. intends to withdraw from the insurance business in the Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands ("CNMI"). An Application for an Order permitting withdrawal from the insurance business in the CNMI will be filed with the Office of the Insurance Commissioner, Department of Commerce, CNMI.

All persons interested in this matter should contact: Pacifica Insurance Underwriters, Inc. as General Agent for Tokio Marine & Nichido Fire Insurance Co., Ltd.

Tokio Marine & Nichido Fire Insurance Co., Ltd.
PO Box 500168,
SAIPAN, MP 96950

Pacifica Insurance Underwriters, Inc.
Telephone: 234-6267

All the remaining liabilities as of January 1, 2010 will be transferred to Tokio Marine Pacific Insurance Limited.

Business

BoH to host financial education seminar

HAGATNA, GUAM—Bank of Hawaii is hosting part six of its series of financial education seminars called "Internal Fraud Prevention for Businesses" on Nov. 24 on Guam and Saipan.

Fraud-related activities in businesses are on the rise. Business owners or managers won't want to miss this seminar that will cover a prominent theory of why internal fraud occurs; identify the most common forms of internal fraud; and provide control measures, policies and procedural tips they can apply to help protect their business. Course objectives include:

- Understanding why internal fraud occurs
- Identifying a vast spectrum of internal fraud schemes
- Learning measures to take to mitigate risk

The seminars are free to the public and are led by subject matter experts from Bank of Hawaii. New topics are introduced every few weeks. For additional information on upcoming topics and seminar schedules, go to www.boh.com/pacificseminars. Speakers are also available free of charge to community organizations; send a request via email to the address listed below.

The schedule of the seminars on both islands follow:

Guam
Tues., Nov. 24, 5:30pm-7pm
BoH Hagatna Branch
134 Soledad Avenue
Hagatna, Guam
Calvin Hernandez
Tel: (671) 479-3566
Email: Calvin.Hernandez@boh.com

Saipan
Tues., Nov. 24, 5:30pm-7pm
BoH Garapan Branch
Pale Arnold Road,
Puerto Rico, Saipan
Estrella Niedo
Tel: (670) 237-2952
Email: Estrella.Niedo@boh.com

For more information, contact Ronald Cannoles, Bank of Hawaii Executive Vice President and Pacific Islands Division Manager at (671) 479-3637. ***(BoH)***

Ex-BofA exec says had no role in Merrill bonuses

WASHINGTON (AP)—The former top attorney of Bank of America Corp. will testify to Congress Tuesday that he wasn't involved in crafting the bank's agreement to let Merrill Lynch pay billions of dollars in bonuses to its employees, before being abruptly fired last December on the CEO's orders.

Timothy Mayopoulos, who was general counsel at the second-largest U.S. bank until December 2008, also says he played no role in deciding whether to disclose the bonuses to Bank of America shareholders. Mayopoulos is scheduled to testify before Congress for the first time on Tuesday as a House oversight panel examines the $45 billion federal bailout of Charlotte, N.C.-based Bank of America and its shotgun acquisition of Merrill last year at the height of the financial crisis.

"To my recollection, I had no role in this issue," Mayopoulos says of the bonuses in written testimony prepared for the hearing. "That was done by others."

The House Oversight and Government Reform Committee has been investigating the government's role in pushing the hastily arranged takeover of Merrill, the tumultuous events surrounding the deal and the payment of the bonuses to Merrill employees.

Retail sales figures point to subdued holidays

WASHINGTON (AP)—Improved retail sales gave Wall Street a boost Monday but provided little hope for a robust holiday shopping season that might invigorate the economic recovery.

The October figures, driven by a surge in auto sales, exceeded economists' expectations. Yet consumers are so squeezed by tight credit and rising unemployment that economists don't expect to see significant spending until well after year's end. Even optimists predict scant improvement over last year's holiday season.

Consumer spending accounts for about 70 percent of total economic activity, so wary shoppers are a worrisome sign for retailers entering the crucial holiday season.

"U.S. consumers are no longer panicked, but they remain cautious," said Mark Zandi, chief economist at Moody's Economy.com. "They are spending just enough to keep the economy out of recession, but not enough to fuel a self-sustained expansion."

Nation

Searchers find body of 5-year-old girl

SANFORD, N.C. (AP)—For a week, authorities feverishly searched for a 5-year-old girl across central North Carolina, only to find her body Monday off a rural road following accusations the girl's mother offered her for sex.

AP
This undated photo provided by the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children shows Shaniya Nicole Davis.

The investigation into the disappearance of Shaniya Davis yielded the arrest of her mother and two other men, though one man was later released. Searchers found Shaniya dumped into the woods 30 miles from her hometown of Fayetteville. Hundreds of volunteers hoping to find her alive left the site of the search dejected, unable to bring Shaniya home to an emotional father, her 7-year-old brother and the dolls she loved to play with.

"I still feel kind of sick to my stomach," said Angela Jackson, 27, from nearby Sanford, who has a two-month-old daughter but searched for consecutive days.

Particularly disturbing were the accusations lodged against Shaniya's mother, 25-year-old Antoinette Davis. Police charged Davis with human trafficking and felony child abuse, saying Shaniya was offered for prostitution.

Security threats inside and out for 9/11 trial

NEW YORK (AP)—Hot sauce and a comb were all an al-Qaida suspect in New York needed to nearly kill one of his guards nine years ago. The bloody episode suggests that security worries in bringing Khalid Sheikh Mohammed and other 9/11 suspects to trial here could be just as big inside the courthouse as outside.

Already, the U.S. marshals are promising the highest security possible—an acknowledgement of how dangerous terrorism suspects have been in the past.

Attorney General Eric Holder announced Friday that Mohammed, the professed mastermind of the 2001 attacks, and four accused henchmen would be brought from Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, to New York to face a civilian federal trial.

ACROSS THE NATION

Bishops' leader defends role in health care debate

BALTIMORE (AP)—The president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic bishops said Monday that church leaders have a duty to the nation and God to raise moral concerns in the debate over health care, whether the issue is abortion rights or coverage for the poor. Chicago Cardinal Francis George said that church leaders are obliged to ensure that "issues that are moral questions before they become political remain moral questions when they become political." Roman Catholic prelates believe that "everyone should be cared for and that no one should be deliberately killed," he said. George made the remarks in a wide-ranging speech at the start of the conference's fall meeting that defended the bishops' role as teachers inside and outside the church. Discussion of the proposed health care overhaul is not on the agenda for public sessions, but George raised the issue in his speech.

Soldier mom refuses deployment to care for baby

SAVANNAH, Ga. (AP)—An Army cook and single mom may face criminal charges after she skipped her deployment flight to Afghanistan because, she said, no one was available to care for her infant son while she was overseas. Spc. Alexis Hutchinson, 21, claims she had no choice but to refuse deployment orders because the only family she had to care for her 10-month-old son—her mother—was overwhelmed by the task, already caring for three other relatives with health problems. Her civilian attorney, Rai Sue Sussman, said Monday that one of Hutchinson's superiors told her she would have to deploy anyway and place the child in foster care.

PUBLIC NOTICE

BRIGHTON INTERNATIONAL, INC.
has closed down its business on 11/3/09.

PUBLIC NOTICE

KMD, INC.
has closed down its business on 11/3/09.

MARIANAS PUBLIC LAND TRUST
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
NOTICE OF REGULAR MEETING

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 11, the Open Government Act of 1992, the Marianas Public Land Trust has scheduled a Board of Trustees Regular Meeting to be held on Friday, November 20, 2009 beginning at 9:00 AM at the MPLT Conference Room, Suite #107, Morgen Building; Saipan, MP.

The following agenda is hereby established:

I PRELIMINARIES
- Call to Order
- Roll Call
- Adoption of Agenda
- Adoption of Minutes

II CONSULTANT'S REPORTS
- Legal Counsel Reports
- Investment Consultant Reports
- Loan Administrator Reports
- Board Consultant Reports
  - o Financial Statements – September 2009
  - o Flash Reports – October 2009

III OLD BUSINESS
- IBPC Loan Request
- Municipality of Tinian & Aguiguan Loan Request
- Rota Gaming Commission Loan Request
- Administrative Manual – Personnel Benefits

IV NEW BUSINESS
- FY 2008 Audit Presentation
- Portfolio Monitoring Proposal – CSGRR

V EXECUTIVE SESSION
At anytime during this scheduled meeting, the Board of Trustees may be required to enter into Executive Session to discuss matters deemed privileged and confidential.

VI MISCELLANEOUS

VII ADJOURNMENT

In accordance with Public Law 8-41, additional agenda items may be added to the above listing only by the recorded vote of the majority of the trustee governing body. All interested persons are welcome to attend and to submit written and oral testimony on the above agenda items.

/s/ Phillip Mendiola-Long, AIF
Chairman, Board of Trustees

TOTTOTVILLE PROPERTY FOR SALE

2nd NOTICE OF SALE
UNDER POWER OF SALE
IN DEED OF TRUST

Anthony P. Sonoda and Lorraine Anne C. Sonoda now known as Lorraine Anne T. Cabrera, (collectively "Trustor"), on or about March 11, 2002 gave and delivered to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, formerly known as the Mariana Island Housing Authority ("Trustee"), acting on behalf of the Department of Veterans Affairs, United States of America, ("VA"), a Deed of Trust upon certain real property hereinafter described, which Deed of Trust was recorded on March 11, 2002 under Document No. 02-585 to secure payment of a Promissory Note of the Trustor to the Trustee, acting on behalf of the VA.

The Deed of Trust and this Notice of Sale affect the property hereafter described:

LOT NO. 019 I 30, CONTAINING AN AREA OF 948 SQUARE METERS, MORE OR LESS, AS MORE PARTICULARLY SHOWN ON THE SURVEY PLAT OF SUBDIVISION OF LOT 019 I 04, DLS CHECK NO. 019 I 02, THE ORIGINAL OF WHICH WAS FILED WITH THE COMMONWEALTH RECORDER'S OFFICE, AS FILE NO. 91-2320, ON MAY 13, 1991.

The Trustor has defaulted on payment of the Note secured by the Deed of Trust, and by reason of said default Trustee issued its Notice of Default on January 21, 2009. More than thirty days have passed since the default notice was served on Trustor and said default has not been cured.

Pursuant to 2CMC §4622(b)(2), NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, Trustee will, on **Friday, December 18, 2009 at 10:00 a.m., at the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation's office in Garapan, Saipan** under power of sale contained in the Deed of Trust, sell the above described parcel of real property at public auction to the highest qualified bidder, to satisfy the obligations secured by said Deed of Trust. The minimum bid offer shall be not less than **Ninety-Seven Thousand, Eight Hundred Twelve and 00/100 ($97,812.00)**, the total amount due under the VA loan.

A deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price must be paid on the day of the auction sale. The remaining balance will be due within 72 hours of the auction sale. Failure to make payment of the remaining balance within 72 hours will result in forfeiture by the buyer of the ten percent (10%) deposit, and any and all of the buyer's rights, title and interest in any of the aforementioned property will revert to NMHC. The sale shall be without warranty as to the title or interest to be conveyed or as to the property of the Deed of Trust, other than that the Trustee is the lawful holder of such Deed of Trust. The purchase price shall be payable by cash, certified check or cashier's check.

Trustee reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to cancel or extend the date, time and place for sale of such property. Any prospective buyer must be a person authorized by the Constitution and laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to hold title to real property in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

DATED this 16th day of November, 2009.

/S/ Joshua T. Sasamoto
Corporate Director, NMHC

Asia

ASIAN BRIEFS

Myanmar's Suu Kyi seeks meeting with junta chief

YANGON, Myanmar (AP)—Myanmar's detained opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi has sent a letter to the head of the country's junta seeking a meeting to discuss how they can cooperate for the national interest, a spokesman for her party said Monday. The initiative is the latest move is try to break the political deadlock that began when Suu Kyi's party won a 1990 general election. The military refused to allow it to take power and increased repression of the country's pro-democracy movement.

Landslide in northern China kills 23

BEIJING (AP)—A state media report says a massive landslide in northern China partially has buried a village and killed at least 23 people, and that rescuers are seeking survivors. The official Xinhua News Agency says the landslide occurred Monday in Zhangzishan Township, near Luliang city in northern Shanxi province. Xinhua said Tuesday that rescuers have recovered 23 bodies from the debris so far, and that two people have been pulled out alive.

Cooperation—and differences

BEIJING (AP)—President Barack Obama and Chinese President Hu Jintao emerged from hours of intense talks Tuesday determined to marshal their combined clout on crucial issues, but still showing divisions over economic, security and human rights issues that have long bedeviled the two powers.

Obama

Hu

"The relationship between our two nations goes far beyond any single issue," Obama said in a joint appearance with Hu that followed about 2 1/2 hours of private conversations.

Both leaders spoke in bold terms of the growing relationship between the countries and emphasized cooperation on the economy, climate change, energy and the nuclear threats of Iran and North Korea.

But in those areas and others, there remained differences that underscored that tensions would hardly be erased in Obama's first, high-profile visit to China. Obama spoke at length about the nations' joint interests and said, "I do not believe that one country's success must come at the expense of another."

SKorea sets greenhouse gas reduction target

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—South Korea announced its first greenhouse gas reduction target Tuesday, pledging to cut emissions of carbon dioxide and other heat-trapping gases by 4 percent below 2005 levels by 2020.

The announcement came amid dimming prospects for a new global climate-change pact at next month's U.N. conference in Copenhagen. South Korea is not among countries that must cut emissions under the existing Kyoto Protocol, and Tuesday's voluntary target-setting could put pressure on developed nations to act more aggressively to fight global warming.

On Sunday, President Barack Obama and other leaders at an Asia-Pacific summit affirmed the growing consensus that the December deadline set two years ago for a completed climate accord is out of reach, and reset the goal for Copenhagen as striking a political deal.

World

Lingering effects of Baghdad blasts on Iraqis

BAGHDAD (AP)—Sadiya Khadem Rashid just needed a stamp. One stamp from Baghdad's city hall so she could receive $850 in compensation given to displaced Iraqis who return home. But before she could get there, the building was blown up.

Recent bombings that hit government buildings in downtown Baghdad killed more than 250 people and wounded hundreds more. The blasts also had a wider effect: slowing down the government services Iraqis use on a daily basis.

The bureaucratic snarl adds to the blow that the attacks inflicted on public confidence in Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki ahead of national elections in January. Infuriated Iraqis have wondered how the blasts could happen in what was supposed to be one of Baghdad's safest neighborhoods.

While other bombings have targeted locations such as mosques or restaurants, these explosions targeted the heart of the government: the Foreign and Finance Ministries in August, and the Justice Ministry, the Baghdad Provincial Administration and the Ministry of Municipalities and Public Works in October.

Weeks after the Oct. 25 blasts, the Baghdad administration building, akin to a city hall, is still almost uninhabitable. Some employees work out of rooms in the far back of the building away from the street, which was the least affected by the blast, but closer to the street, there are no phones, no floors and no walls.

Food summit turns down UN funding appeal

ROME (AP)—Pope Benedict XVI decried the steadily worsening tragedy of world hunger on Monday after a global summit rebuffed a U.N. call to commit billions of dollars a year for a new strategy to help poor countries feed themselves.

The meeting at the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization did unite nearly 200 countries behind a pledge to increase aid to farmers in poor countries to help the developing world lessen its dependence on foreign food aid.

Only hours after the three-day summit began, some 60 heads of state and dozens of ministers rejected the U.N.'s call to commit $44 billion annually for agricultural development in these nations. The final declaration also omitted a pledge, sought by the United Nations, to eradicate hunger by 2025.

UN: Once-secret Iran nuke plant to start in 2011

VIENNA (AP)—Iranian construction of a previously secret uranium enrichment site is at an advanced stage, with high-tech equipment already in place at the fortified facility ahead of its 2011 startup, the International Atomic Energy Agency said in a report Monday.

The revelation of the existence of the underground plant known as Fordo, near the holy city of Qom, has heightened concerns of other possible undeclared Iranian facilities that are not subject to IAEA oversight and therefore could be used for military purposes.

In Washington, State Department spokesman Ian Kelly said the IAEA report "underscores that Iran still refuses to comply fully with its international nuclear obligations."

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION, PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM
P.O. BOX 501370 CK, SAIPAN, MP 96950
HUMAN RESOURCES OFFICE

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

PROMOTIONAL OPPORTUNITY (FOR PSS EMPLOYESS ONLY)
EXAMINATION ANNOUNCEMENT

It is the policy of the Board of Education, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, that the Public School System's Human Resources shall be applied and administered according to the principles of equal employment opportunity as defined by the Northern Marianas Commonwealth Public Law 6 - 10, regardless of age, race, sex, religion, political affiliation or belief, marital status, handicap or place of origin. Applicants for this position must be a U.S. Citizen or be eligible and authorized to work in the U.S., including the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Announcement No: **PSS-2009-078** Application & Employment Type: **Non-Certified**
Position Title: **EDUCATION SPECIALIST V**
(Director of Academic Programs With Articulation, Americorps)
Pay Level/Step: **35 / 01-12** Per Annum Salary: **$28,807.51 - $49,266.21**
Opening Date: **November 5, 2009** Closing Date: **November 20, 2009**
Location: **PSS – Associate Commissioner of Education for Curriculum & Instruction Services Office**
Benefits: Salary Commensurate with qualifications and experience, plus excellent benefits (including Life Insurance, Retirement Benefits, and Paid Leave/Holidays

Minimum Requirements:
Graduation from US accredited college or university with a Master's degree in Education or Education Administration, plus at least six (6) years work related experience in teaching, designing and implementing subject program and/or training of teachers and specialists.

INTERESTED APPLICANTS MAY OBTAIN A DETAILED JOB DESCRIPTION WITH QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS AND APPLICATION FORMS AT THE PSS HUMAN RESOURCES OFFICE AT THE 3rd FLOOR RETIREMENT BUILDING, CAPITOL HILL. REQUIRED DOCUMENTS MUST BE ATTACHED TO COMPLETE APPLICATION FORMS: (1) COPY OF DIPLOMA/DEGREE, (2) TRANSCRIPTS, (3) POLICE CLEARANCE (FROM PLACE OF RESIDENCE FOR PAST SIX MONTHS), (4) VERIFICATION OF EMPLOYMENT LETTER, (5) RESUME, AND (6) TEACHING CERTIFICATE (IF APPLICABLE).COMPLETED APPLICATIONS AND REQUIRED DOCUMENTS MAY BE SUBMITTED TO THE HUMAN RESOURCES OFFICE OR MAILED TO: CNMI PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM, ATTN: HUMAN RESOURCES OFFICE, RETIREMENT BUILDING; THIRD FLOOR, P.O. BOX 501370 CK, SAIPAN, MP 96950, and TEL. #. (670) 237-3051, FAX # (670) 664-3707. ALSO VISIT http://www.pss.cnmi.mp/humanresources ON THE WORLDWIDE WEB.

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION, PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM
P.O. BOX 501370 CK, SAIPAN, MP 96950
HUMAN RESOURCES OFFICE

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

PROMOTIONAL & OPEN COMPETITIVE EXAMINATION ANNOUNCEMENT

It is the policy of the Board of Education, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, that the Public School System's Human Resources shall be applied and administered according to the principles of equal employment opportunity as defined by the Northern Marianas Commonwealth Public Law 6 - 10, regardless of age, race, sex, religion, political affiliation or belief, marital status, handicap or place of origin. Applicants for this position must be a U.S. Citizen or be eligible and authorized to work in the U.S., including the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Announcement No: **PSS-2009-085** Application & Employment Type: **Non-Certified**
Position Title: **ARCHITECT / ENGINEER**
Pay Level/Step: **UNGRADED** Per Annum Salary: **$50,000.00**
Opening Date: **November 5, 2009** Closing Date: **November 20, 2009**
Location: **PSS – ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES DIVISION**
Benefits: Salary Commensurate with qualifications and experience, plus excellent benefits (including Life Insurance, Retirement Benefits, and Paid Leave/Holidays
Minimum Requirements:

Graduation from US accredited college or university with a BA degree in Architecture, Civil Engineering, or related field, and must be CNMI Licensed, plus at least three (3) years experience in construction management, architecture, or related field.

INTERESTED APPLICANTS MAY OBTAIN A DETAILED JOB DESCRIPTION WITH QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS AND APPLICATION FORMS AT THE PSS HUMAN RESOURCES OFFICE AT THE 3rd FLOOR RETIREMENT BUILDING, CAPITOL HILL. REQUIRED DOCUMENTS MUST BE ATTACHED TO COMPLETE APPLICATION FORMS: (1) COPY OF DIPLOMA/DEGREE, (2) TRANSCRIPTS, (3) POLICE CLEARANCE (FROM PLACE OF RESIDENCE FOR PAST SIX MONTHS), (4) VERIFICATION OF EMPLOYMENT LETTER, (5) RESUME, AND (6) TEACHING CERTIFICATE (IF APPLICABLE).COMPLETED APPLICATIONS AND REQUIRED DOCUMENTS MAY BE SUBMITTED TO THE HUMAN RESOURCES OFFICE OR MAILED TO: CNMI PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM, ATTN: HUMAN RESOURCES OFFICE, RETIREMENT BUILDING; THIRD FLOOR, P.O. BOX 501370 CK, SAIPAN, MP 96950, and TEL. #. (670) 237-3051, FAX # (670) 664-3707. ALSO VISIT http://www.pss.cnmi.mp/humanresources ON THE WORLDWIDE WEB.

Campus Life

Hopwood students elect new Student Council officers

By JONAS BARCINAS
PRINCIPAL, HOPWOOD JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL

Congratulations to the newly elected HJHS Student Council officers. Many thanks goes out to our STUCO advisors Mr. Victor Borja, and Mrs. Adeline Borja for their outstanding leadership and going beyond their daily job requirement to coordinate our youth leadership and its activities for the entire student population. As always, we try to encourage our students to get involved and enjoy their two years of junior high while they can. Sky is the limit and like our school motto goes, "Make everyday the best." And that's how we want our kids to feel each day that they enter the gates of learning. These young leaders are very active in maintaining a peaceful campus, hosting exciting and fun activities for all students, and gathering students' suggestions for a successful school year. The staff and management are truly proud of these outstanding smart young leaders.

Mathcourt participants

Congratulations goes out to all the HJHS mathematicians and their coaches Mr. Epi Cabrera, Ms. Emily Cabrera, Ms. Kathy Barja, Mr. Chang Jang, Mr. Pastor Gagaring, Mrs. Aida Gagaring, and Ms. Yeldez Javier for a job well done during the Mathcourt competition. Hopwood had about 100 participants at the first meet at Dandan Elementary School and about 50 students at Kagman High School. Our students continue to showcase their ability to do well during the competition and we acknowledge them for bringing pride and joy to the Home of the Hilitais.

Appreciation goes out to the parents for their support in bringing their children to the competition as well as encouraging and supporting the school and their children every step of the way. Go, go Hilitais! The staff and management of HJHS are super proud of its participants and coaches.

Island 2 Island Tsunami Relief Drive

The HJHS Student Council & My-WAVE club were so touched by the island's move in reaching out to provide assistance to our Samoan families. Our entire HJHS staff and students did all they can to help donate some money, canned goods, and clothes to help in this great effort. This is such a great move because not only are we helping our families out there in the South Pacific but the students are also learning a lesson on the importance of volunteering their time to do services for a good cause. The Hilitais are always happy and ready to be of help to its family within the community and elsewhere. As part of their curriculum and the PSS Advisory Panel vision, volunteerism.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Students, teachers, and administrators of the Golden Harvest International School have their group picture taken after a successful performance at the recent PGFC competition, held on Nov. 14, 2009, at Kagman High School.

Golden Harvest students shine in latest PGFC

The principal and teachers of Golden Harvest International School are happy to announce the winners of the recent PGFC competition held on Nov. 14, 2009 at Kagman High School.

Congratulations to all the winners, with special mention to the indefatigable teachers who have shown their dedication and love for the children and the school. Your efforts, teamwork, and cooperation have proven effective in order to bring the bacon home and the honor of victory.

Thank you winners, teachers, and parents for your untiring support to your to your children and the school as a whole. Kudos to all of you and keep up the good work.

K-2 DIVISION

Choral Speaking A:
1st Place - Devin Ayuyu
Renz Fauni
Vince Salvador

2nd Place - Sebastian Bernardo
Michelle Leon Guerrero
Teody Valenzuela
Kyla Raquel
Raven Francisco

Choral Speaking B:
1st Place- Kennedy Vila
Davean Gonzales
Mark Galang

DUO Interp A:
1st place - Marione Corpuz
Kennedy Vila

2nd Place - Daphne Cruzat
Faith Bocago

5th Place - Robin Alvarez
Jewel Combinido

DUO Interp B:
2nd Place - Davean Gonzales
Steven Rem Bartolo

3rd Place - Michelle Leon Guerrero
Kyla Raquel

Dramatic Interp B:
1st place - Daphne Cruzat
3rd place - Faith Bocago

Reader's Forum C:
3rd Place - Uzziel Cobacha

Humorous Interp A:
1st place - John San Nicolas
5th place - Sebastian Bernardo

Humorous Interp B:
1st place - Vince Salvador

3-5 DIVISION

Choral Speaking A:
1st place
Angelo Talens
Matthew Leon Guerrero
Allen James Aguilar
Mark Ibanez

DUO Interp A:
1st place - Angelo Talens
Matthew Leon Guerrero

DUO Interp B:
1st Place - James Aguilar
Mark Ibanez

Reader's Forum A:
1st place – En Ming Cacdac

Dramatic Interpretation A:
5th place En Ming Cacdac

Life & Style

Palin, Winfrey talk about book and Levi Johnston

CHICAGO (AP)—Sarah Palin said in an interview with Oprah Winfrey that it's heartbreaking to see the road that Levi Johnston, the father of her grandson, has taken and that the soon-to-be Playgirl model hasn't seen his baby in awhile.

In an episode that aired Monday, the two women also talked about the controversy surrounding Palin's possible appearance on the show last year and touched on whether the former Alaska governor planned to run for president in 2012.

Palin and Winfrey embraced as the one-time Republican vice presidential candidate walked onto the talk show stage. Palin's 413-page book, "Going Rogue," will be released Tuesday and she begins a book tour Wednesday in Grand Rapids, Mich.

The new memoir doesn't mention Johnston, who has sparred repeatedly with his former mother-in-law-to-be. Johnston and Palin's daughter Bristol Palin are parents to son, Tripp.

When Winfrey asked about Johnston, Palin said she didn't think "a national television show is the place to discuss some of the things he's doing and saying."

But Palin went on to say she finds it "a bit heartbreaking to see the road that he is on right now" and that "it's not a healthy place to be."

Bristol Palin and her son live at Palin's home, she said, and have much family support.

"(Johnston's) quite busy with his media tours and he hasn't seen the baby for a while," Palin said. "But we will let that be the discussion between Bristol and Levi as they work out their relationship."

Palin also said Johnston remains a member of the family and that they can work out any troubles. She said she prays for him and that he has an "open invitation" to Thanksgiving dinner.

"He's a teenager," Palin said. "I don't think he realizes quite yet what it is that he is being handled and orchestrated around."

Winfrey began the interview by asking Palin if she felt snubbed at not getting an invitation to "The Oprah Winfrey Show" last year. Winfrey said she didn't have any candidates on her Chicago-based show during the campaign because of her support of President Barack Obama.

Palin said she didn't feel snubbed and told Winfrey, "No offense to you, but it wasn't the center of my universe."

Winfrey also asked Palin if she was thinking about running for president in 2012.

"It's not on my radar screen right now," Palin said.

Fan frenzy at LA premiere of 'New Moon'

LOS ANGELES (AP)—"Twilight" fans have taken over the Westwood neighborhood of Los Angeles.

Thousands of fans filled the streets near UCLA on Monday, hoping to catch a glimpse of their favorite undead stars attending the evening premiere of "New Moon'—the second film in the "Twilight' vampire saga.

Some "Twi-hards"—as they call themselves—arrived as early as Thursday afternoon to secure a place in line for tickets allowing them to watch the stars' arrivals on the red carpet. The 800 available tickets were all distributed by Monday morning, but the line still stretched for blocks well after lunchtime.

Nicole Zamora, 36, was sixth in line after getting to Westwood on Thursday afternoon. She and her three sisters wore "New Moon" T-shirts they'd made for the occasion and said they spent the weekend "reading, listening to the iPod and trying to sleep—anything to pass the time."

Christina Fuentes and four of her friends traveled from New Jersey for the "New Moon" premiere. The 24-year-old wore vampire teeth ("They just clip on," she said) and carried a home-made sign that read, "We flew in from NJ! We've been camping out for three days just to see you!" She pasted her airline boarding pass to the poster as proof.

They were number 313 in line, she said.

The weekend warriors were rewarded with appearances by some "Twilight" stars.

AP

Actors Taylor Lautner and Kristen Stewart arrive at The Twilight Saga: New Moon premiere in Westwood, Calif. Monday, Nov. 16, 2009.

ENTERTAINMENT TIDBITS

The semifinals are on! 4 compete on 'Dancing'

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Mya is tops among semifinalists on "Dancing with the Stars." The singer topped the judges' leaderboard on Monday with 87 points out of a possible 90 for the three dances she performed with her professional partner, Dmitry Chaplin. Model Joanna Krupa and partner Derek Hough finished in second place with 81 points. Reality star Kelly Osbourne and her partner, Louis Van Amstel, are in third place with 78 points; while entertainer Donny Osmond and his partner, Kym Johnson, landed in last place with 74 points. One couple will be eliminated from the ABC dance competition during Tuesday's episode. The new "Dancing" champ will be crowned next week.

Ashlee Simpson-Wentz set for B'way's 'Chicago'

NEW YORK (AP)—Ashlee Simpson-Wentz is ready to show some razzle-dazzle on Broadway. The pop singer who was recently booted from "Melrose Place," is set to play Roxie Hart in the long-running musical revival of "Chicago." Producer Barry Weissler says Simpson-Wentz will join the production on Nov. 30 for a 10-week engagement ending in early February. The performer played Roxie in the London production of "Chicago" in 2006. Among her best-selling singles are such songs as "Pieces of Me," "Boyfriend" and "L.O.V.E." She is married to musician Pete Wentz.

Heidi, Spencer Pratt shopping own reality TV show

NEW YORK (AP)—Reality TV personalities Heidi and Spencer Pratt said Monday they want to branch out from MTV's "The Hills" and star in their own reality show to give viewers a bigger peek into their lives. In an interview to promote their new book, "How to be Famous: Our Guide to Looking the Part, Playing the Press, and Becoming a Tabloid Fixture," the couple told The Associated Press they're shopping the idea around to various networks. They said that while "The Hills"—which doesn't acknowledge its cast members' fame—only focuses on a small part of their lives, their own show would reveal everything that happens to them. They also said they'd even be willing to include live segments. "You don't get to see our everyday lives and what we do," Heidi Pratt said. But the Pratts also said they don't plan to leave "The Hills" and hope to appear in both shows. Last summer, the newlyweds also appeared on NBC's "I'm a Celebrity ... Get Me Out of Here!" during a break from "The Hills."

Jay-Z, Will and Jada Pinkett Smith back 'Fela!'

NEW YORK (AP)—It's official: After weeks of speculation, Jay-Z and Will and Jada Pinkett Smith have joined the producing team of the Broadway musical "Fela!" Jay-Z told The Associated Press last month that he might be getting involved in the show, an Afrobeat musical about the life of Nigerian musician Fela Anikulapo-Kuti (ah-knee-coo-LAH'-po coo-TEE'). Now producers say he and the Smiths are in, though there's no word on how much of a financial investment the three have made in the show. "Fela!" is now in previews at the Eugene O'Neill Theatre and opens next Monday. It's directed and choreographed by Bill T. Jones.

Mass. judge tosses lawsuit against Hasselbeck

BOSTON (AP)—A federal judge in Massachusetts has dismissed a lawsuit accusing television personality Elisabeth Hasselbeck of plagiarism. A federal lawsuit accused the co-host of ABC's "The View" of lifting content from a book written by self-published Cape Cod author Susan Hassett on the digestive disorder celiac disease. Hasselbeck's book was called "The G-Free Diet: A Gluten-Free Survival Guide" and appeared on best-seller lists this year. U.S. District Judge Joseph Tauro dismissed the lawsuit last week after Hassett's attorney declined to pursue it. The dismissal was first reported in the Boston Herald on Saturday. Hassett lawyer Richard Cunha said Monday that while he still believes there were instances of plagiarism, he isn't sure they were egregious enough for his client to recover money damages. Hasselbeck has called the allegations baseless.

Ohio chief's trial begins in Parker-Broderick case

ST. CLAIRSVILLE, Ohio (AP)—A police chief on trial in Ohio acknowledges that he joked with paparazzi about working with them to snoop on the woman who carried twins for celebrity couple Sarah Jessica Parker and Matthew Broderick. The lawyer representing suspended Chief Barry Carpenter said during opening arguments Monday that Carpenter was "foolish," but that he never stole anything from the woman's home. A state prosecutor told jurors that Carpenter used his position as chief in Martins Ferry, the eastern Ohio town where surrogate Michelle Ross lived, to exploit someone's personal and intimate privacy. Carpenter and police chief Chad Dojack from nearby Bridgeport are accused of scheming to sell items from the house to celebrity photographers. Both men have pleaded not guilty. Carpenter's trial is to continue Tuesday. Dojack faces trial in January.

Art of letter-writing suffers neglect in age of the Internet

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: Please don't think I'm stupid for asking this, but I need some help. The practice of letter-writing appears to be a dying form because of e-mail and texting—which I'm good at. But when I receive a nice gift, I know the proper way to acknowledge it is to write a thank-you letter.

Can you please tell me how to do one that doesn't come across as awkward? Christmas is coming and this is hard for me. When I try to get my thoughts down on paper, I am ... STUCK!

DEAR STUCK!: There's no such thing as a "stupid" question, and your problem is one that is shared by many. A thank-you letter doesn't have to be long and flowery. In fact, short and to-the-point can be more effective.

I have found that keeping a notepad handy when I open a gift and jotting down the first thought that comes into my head when I open the package is helpful. (Hint: Is it soft? Cuddly? Tasty? Something you had wanted but had not been able to find? Clever? If the answer is yes, then write it down.)

And by the way, Christmas isn't the only gift-giving occasion when a thank-you letter is called for. There are also weddings, anniversaries, graduations. My booklet "How to Write Letters for All Occasions" offers samples that can be adapted and personalized. It can be ordered by sending your name and mailing address, plus a check or money order for $6 (U.S. funds), to Dear Abby, Letters Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. Shipping and handling are included in the price.

Also included are tips for writing a love letter—and those letters that are the hardest of all, letters of condolence. Included are specific suggestions on what to say, and equally important, what NOT to say when someone is grieving the loss of a parent, a child or a spouse whether the death may be sudden or after a lingering illness.

DEAR ABBY: When my husband and I married two years ago, we both wanted children. I am having second thoughts now. We recently discovered that there's a genetic disorder on one side of the family, and it scares me to think we may not have a healthy child.

To be perfectly honest, even if we could have a healthy child, I am also not sure I want to go through the challenge of parenting a teenager. How should I approach my dear husband about my change of heart?

SECOND-GUESSING IN N.Y.

DEAR SECOND-GUESSING: Be gentle, but be honest. Rather than say you don't want kids, start by saying you are having serious doubts about whether you would be good parent material. Then tell him why.

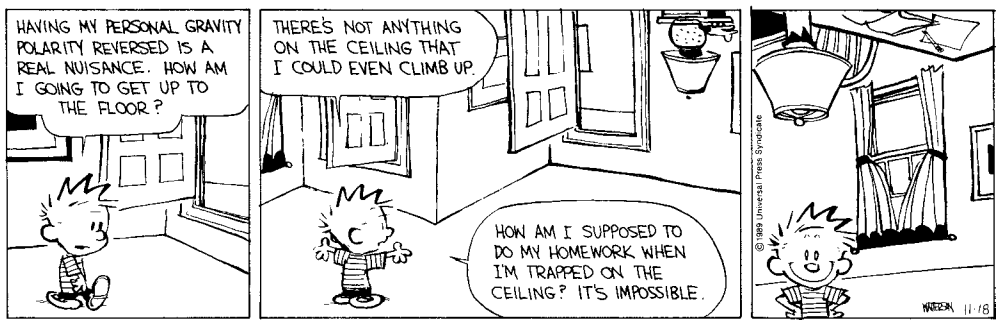
This will probably be the first of many discussions you'll have with him on the subject, touching on whether your marriage can withstand your change of heart. Not every woman is meant to be a mother—and better to recognize that fact before becoming one rather than after. That said, you could also change your mind again. Many women have.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


HAVING MY PERSONAL GRAVITY POLARITY REVERSED IS A REAL NUISANCE. HOW AM I GOING TO GET UP TO THE FLOOR?
THERE'S NOT ANYTHING ON THE CEILING THAT I COULD EVEN CLIMB UP.
HOW AM I SUPPOSED TO DO MY HOMEWORK WHEN I'M TRAPPED ON THE CEILING? IT'S IMPOSSIBLE.
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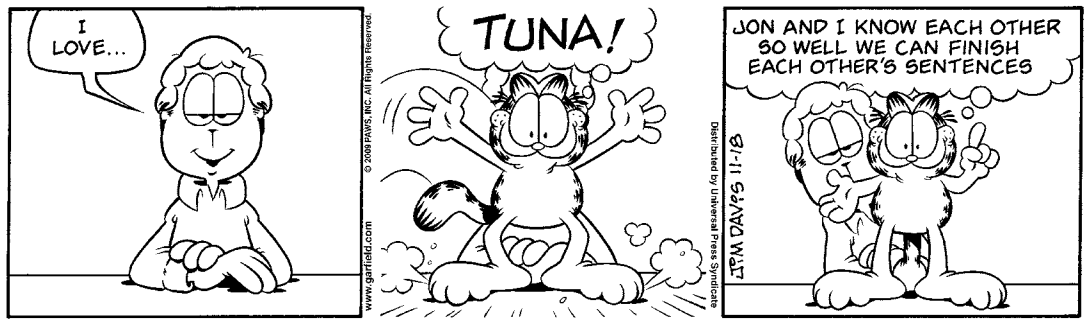
WATTERSON 11-18

Garfield®

By Jim Davis


I LOVE...
TUNA!
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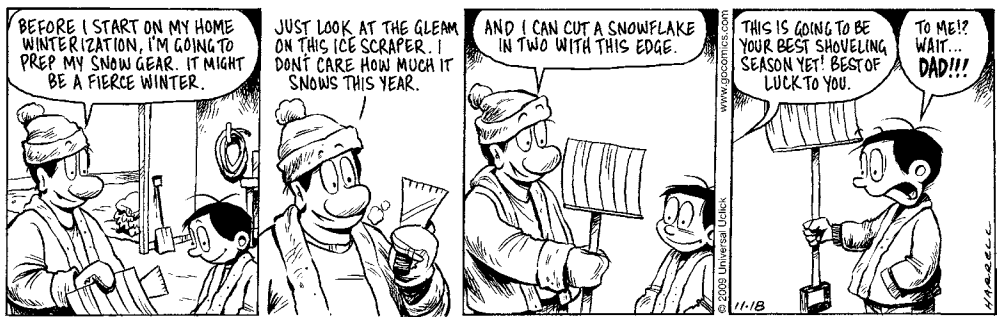
www.garfield.com
JON AND I KNOW EACH OTHER SO WELL WE CAN FINISH EACH OTHER'S SENTENCES
JIM DAVIS 11-18
Distributed by Universal Press Syndicate

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


BEFORE I START ON MY HOME WINTERIZATION, I'M GOING TO PREP MY SNOW GEAR. IT MIGHT BE A FIERCE WINTER.
JUST LOOK AT THE GLEAM ON THIS ICE SCRAPER. I DON'T CARE HOW MUCH IT SNOWS THIS YEAR.
AND I CAN CUT A SNOWFLAKE IN TWO WITH THIS EDGE.
THIS IS GOING TO BE YOUR BEST SHOVELING SEASON YET! BEST OF LUCK TO YOU.
TO ME!? WAIT... DAD!!!
www.gocomics.com
© 2009 Universal Uclick
11-18
MARRELL

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

WHAT'CHA DOING?
I'M ON GOOGLE MAPS.
IS THAT A SATELLITE PHOTO?
YEP. SEE? THAT'S OUR NEIGHBORHOOD. YOU CAN EVEN SEE OUR HOUSE.
AND THERE'S THAT HUGE PIMPLE ON YOUR FOREHEAD.
www.gocomics.com
11/18
Glenn McCoy
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CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Space in between
4 Recipe measure
7 Former larva
8 Esteem
10 Artist's support
11 Greyhound alternative
13 Miscellany
16 Street address?
17 Saint-Saëns' "— Macabre"
18 "— Got a Secret"
19 Gossip
20 Platoon, for example
21 Set (down) suddenly
23 Made on a loom
25 Hodgepodge
26 Picks up the check
27 Bleachers occupant
28 Tale-tellers
30 — constrictor
33 Irregular impulsive moves
36 Sawbuck
37 Gear up
38 Money
39 Baseball scores
40 Obtain
41 Perched

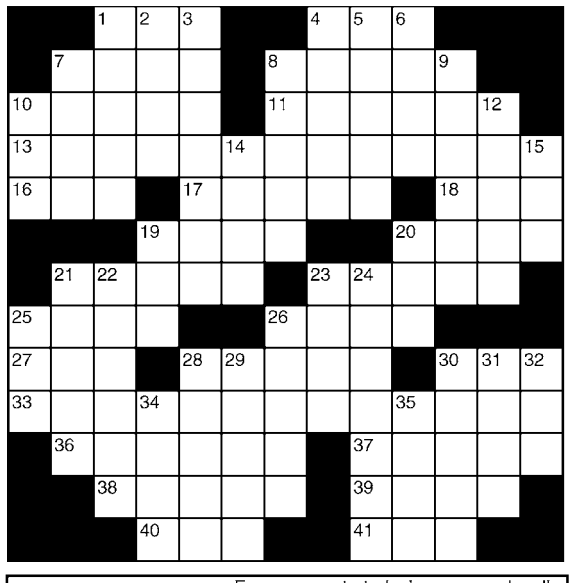
DOWN

1 Enthusiastic enjoyment
2 "Planet of the —"
3 One who champions a cause
4 Freebies
5 Loosen
6 Hole in the head?
7 Twosome
8 Lacked
9 Wisconsin city
10 Recede
12 Kline or Spacey
14 Dealer's foe (Var.)
15 Collection
19 Singing partners
20 Skin-damaging rays, for short
21 Braid
22 Door-frame top
23 "Star —"
24 Seafood appetizers
25 Vacationing
26 Chaplain
28 Jousting need
29 Not moving
30 Principal force
31 Elevator name
32 Cleo's slayer
34 Like a bug in a rug
35 Blue hue

Solution time: 21 mins.

O	L	D	S	■	B	E	T	■	I	B	I	D
R	O	O	T	■	A	A	H	■	N	O	D	E
T	U	N	A	■	C	R	E	A	T	I	O	N
S	T	A	T	I	O	N	■	G	U	L	L	Y
■	■	■	U	R	N	■	F	R	I	■	■	■
B	R	I	S	K	■	O	R	A	T	I	O	N
O	E	R	■	■	T	W	O	■	■	N	I	N
O	V	A	T	I	O	N	■	U	N	C	L	E
■	■	■	I	N	N	■	U	S	E	■	■	■
E	M	I	T	S	■	E	L	A	T	I	O	N
V	A	C	A	T	I	O	N	■	H	O	M	E
E	D	E	N	■	D	N	A	■	E	W	E	R
R	E	D	S	■	S	S	R	■	R	A	N	D

Yesterday's answer 11-18



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Owen Wilson, 41; Kirk Hammett, 47; Elizabeth Perkins, 49; Jameson Parker, 62

Happy Birthday: This can be a great year if you don't overstep your financial bounds. It's a year to make money and put what you have in a safe place. Change is upon you and the less you resist, the better you will do. A relationship or partnership will take on some heavy topics and issues that will make or break your future dealings with one another. Be prepared to walk away. Your numbers are 1, 8, 17, 23, 27, 33, 47

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Be the one to coordinate and plan events and you will gain control, enhance your reputation and make contact with some very interesting connections for the future. You can stabilize your position and ease your stress by taking action. ✪✪✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Change may seem like a good idea but when you take a look at the facts and figures you will see a discrepancy. Love is heating up. Emotions are going to be tough to control and an outlet is needed to avoid anxiety. ✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): It's up to you to maintain your position and control of whatever situation you face. Now is not the time to back down or give in. Take credit for what you do and don't be afraid to brag a little. ✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Learning will be a big part of your day and, if you can put the information you acquire to good use, you will excel. Love is in the stars, so plan a little celebration that will help move things along personally. ✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): You should be spending time with people who have something to contribute, not your faithful followers. A partnership may be offered but, before you go down that road, question what this person can bring to the table. Don't sell yourself short. ✪✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Don't jeopardize friendships or partnerships. Meddling or getting involved in emotional spats will backfire. Keep any changes you want to make to a minimum for now, working quietly behind the scenes. ✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Communication will be the key and your creativity and ingenious way of explaining what you want to do will enable you to drum up the support you need. Don't hold back. Travel plans should be in the works. ✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Organize your day to fit the absolute most into every waking moment. Idle time will lead to anxiety, impulsive actions and mistakes that will take forever to undo. You can impress someone important and satisfy your needs. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Don't let someone else do the work and collect your rewards. You will have an opportunity to make some money or come into it quickly because of a decision you made. Foolish spending based on the information of others will reverse your good fortune. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): A change in the way you earn your living looks beneficial and should be implemented as soon as you can get a contract or negotiate the deal that best protects you. Working with someone who has the same goal will pay off. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Don't give in to demands. Your intellectual approach coupled with your inventive mind will produce substantial interest from those looking to invest. Don't let anyone upset your plans using unfair emotional ploys. ✪✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Ultimatums will backfire and greater restraint will be necessary to avoid arguments that will get you nowhere. Don't mess with rules and regulations unless you are ready to pay the price. ✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are engaging and can command attention. You are aggressive and always comfortable with your surroundings, even when you move from place to place.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations,* ***myspace.com/eugenialast*** *for Eugenia's blog,* ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

	9	4	1	5	2			
	6		7			8		
3				8			5	
9				1			6	
5	8	1	2	7			3	
	7	6	9				8	
							4	
							2	
				6	8	3	1	5

Difficulty Level ★★★ 11/18

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Saturday's SUDOKU Answer

9	2	3	6	5	8	4	7	1
6	1	7	2	9	4	5	3	8
8	4	5	3	7	1	9	6	2
3	5	1	4	6	2	7	8	9
4	9	8	7	1	3	6	2	5
2	7	6	5	8	9	1	4	3
7	6	9	8	3	5	2	1	4
1	8	4	9	2	6	3	5	7
5	3	2	1	4	7	8	9	6

Difficulty Level ★★ 11/17

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

GREAT PHILANTHROPISTS **Solution: 7 letters**

K	L	P	N	O	I	S	S	A	P	M	O	C	U	R
R	O	S	R	E	L	L	E	F	E	K	C	O	R	P
O	W	N	N	K	E	L	L	O	G	G	E	M	A	F
W	E	O	E	O	N	A	M	T	S	A	E	M	O	B
A	L	I	M	R	I	O	H	O	G	G	R	U	E	U
S	L	T	I	D	A	T	W	R	N	O	N	N	G	F
H	Y	U	E	L	S	H	A	O	W	D	E	I	A	F
I	O	T	H	O	K	T	S	N	A	V	R	T	N	E
N	N	I	N	Z	Z	N	T	T	O	A	R	I	O	T
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Fax. (670) 234-5749

Attorney for Bank of Guam

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

BANK OF GUAM, **Plaintiff,** **vs.** **MELINDA T. TAKAI,** **Defendant.**	Civil Action No. 09-0264-CV **AMENDED SUMMONS**

TO: **THE ABOVE-NAMED DEFENDANT MELINDA T. TAKAI**

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED TO APPEAR by the 21st day after the fourth date of publication of this AMENDED SUMMONS and defend the above entitled action in the CNMI SUPERIOR COURT, at the Office of Clerk of Court, CNMI SUPERIOR COURT, 1st Floor, Guma' Hustisia, Iimwal Aweewe, House of Justice, Susupe Village, P.O. Box 500307, Saipan MP 96950-0307; and answer the complaint of the plaintiff Bank of Guam, and serve a copy of your answer upon **Robert Tenorio Torres**, attorney for Plaintiff Bank of Guam, at **Plata Drive, Whispering Palms (Chalan Kiya) P.O. Box 503758, Saipan, MP 96950**; and in case of failure to do so, judgement will be rendered against you according to the demand of the COMPLAINT, which has been filed with the Clerk of Court.

So **ORDERED** this 5th day of August, 2009.

/s/ Bernardita A. Sablan
Clerk of Court

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POSITION VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Executive Director

The Northern Marianas Amateur Sports Association (NMASA) is seeking applications for the position of Executive Director.

The Executive Director will be committed and responsible for leading the Northern Marianas Amateur Sports Association (NMASA) within the strategic framework set by the NMASA Board of Directors, through the day-to-day management of NMASA, the development and implementation of initiatives in sport, and in identifying and responding to the challenges within the sports sector.

Key responsibilities include:
- Providing leadership in establishing and implementing national sport strategies to improve participation in organized sport, at the community level, by all the people of the Northern Marianas.
- Creating a successful ongoing Corporate Sponsorship, Marketing and Merchandising Program.
- Creating an effective fundraising program to ensure Team Marianas is fully represented at the Micronesian and Pacific (Mini) Games.
- Developing funding and capacity building partnerships for NMASA with international and regional sports agencies.
- Planning and Organizing the Marianas Games for 2010 and 2011, and working with the Marianas Games Council.
- Attracting international events to the Northern Marianas by working with the Marianas Visitors Authority and national sports federations.
- Organizing Team Marianas to achieve excellence in sports performance to its full potential.
- Developing NMASA and Team Marianas brands and managing an effective communications program for NMASA.
- Driving support for appropriate governance and strategic planning for national sporting federations.
- Providing leadership in developing partnership and capacity building with sports organizations and stakeholders in other sectors (such as health, education, and community services).
- Ensuring that all accountability, reporting and compliance requirements are met.

Suitable applicants with relevant tertiary qualifications and experience in sports management, management and / or business, demonstrated experience in planning, organizing and administration of sports and events, a strong marketing and communications background with the capacity to think and plan at the strategic level and act at the operational level, and demonstrated success with corporate sector fundraising with a proven commercial outlook will be given priority in the selection process.

Applicants should have a sound knowledge of Northern Marianas sports, its challenges, and an understanding of its place in Northern Marianas society and culture, knowledge of the NMASA's and Government's objectives for sport and physical activity, and with proven experience in sports and related activities.

Applicants should exemplify personal drive, proactiveness and high energy, have the proven ability to shape strategic thinking and achieve results, demonstrate the ability to cultivate strong working relationships, and the ability to communicate, and have demonstrated success in achieving high level credibility with stakeholders and the ability to relate effectively to people at all levels.

An attractive package commensurate with the seniority of the role will be available to the successful candidate. However, it must be noted that the Executive Director will be directly involved in raising funds that support ongoing employment of the Executive Director.

Resumes with names and contact details of three (3) references, should be sent to the Northern Marianas Amateur Sports Association (NMASA) no later than November 30th, 2009. Documents will not be returned.

By hand: Law Offices Michael A. White – 2nd Floor, Joeten Susupe Commercial Building
By mail: Northern Marianas Amateur Sports Association (NMASA)
P.O. Box 502476
Saipan MP 96950
By email: mwhite@saipan.com
Closing date: 30th November 2009

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Saturday Issue:
- *Saipan Tribune:* All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on Monday issue.

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ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

Mavs' Nowitzki hits fallaway for OT winner

MILWAUKEE (AP)—Dirk Nowitzki hit a fallaway 18-footer as time expired in overtime to give the Dallas Mavericks a 115-113 victory over the Milwaukee Bucks on Monday night.

With 3.1 seconds left, Nowitzki caught a pass from Jason Kidd, who finished a point short of a triple-double, and threw it up over Luc Richard Mbah a Moute. The ball rattled off the rim and backboard, dropping softly through the hoop as the backboard lights came on. The play was briefly reviewed, but counted.

Nowitzki, who finished with 32 points and 11 rebounds, immediately untucked his jersey and celebrated with his teammates near the Mavericks' bench.

Bucks rookie Brandon Jennings had 25 points, seven rebounds and eight assists in his first game since scoring 55 against the Warriors on Saturday night.

But it wasn't enough to extend Milwaukee's winning streak to five.

Kidd had nine points, 10 rebounds and 17 assists for the short-handed Mavericks, who lost forward Shawn Marion when he sprained his left ankle in the second quarter. Drew Gooden had 22 points and 14 rebounds again playing in place of center Erick Dampier.

Trailing by 18 midway through the third quarter, the Bucks cut it to 85-82 heading into the fourth on Jennings' 3 just before time expired.

Jennings gave the Bucks a 104-102 lead with a 6-foot layup, but Jason Terry tied it with a jumper. Luke Ridnour and Jennings both missed shots for Milwaukee that would've won it in the closing seconds of regulation.

Ersan Ilyasova finished with 19 points, Ridnour added 17 and Andrew Bogut and Mbah a Moute each had 13 for the Bucks.

Dampier was hospitalized after warmups ahead of Sunday night's 95-90 victory in Detroit, but the Mavericks have said little about it beyond he wasn't feeling well. Coach Rick Carlisle didn't elaborate before the game, but said Dampier was flying to Milwaukee and rejoining the team in time to fly home on the Mavericks' charter flight.

Hawks 99, Trail Blazers 95, OT.

At Atlanta, Joe Johnson scored eight of his 35 points in overtime to lead the Hawks to their fifth consecutive win.

The Hawks, who won at Portland on Nov. 3, swept the season series for the first time since the 1996-97 season. Josh Smith had 20 points and 16 rebounds.

Rudy Fernandez led Portland with 19 points, including a 3-pointer at the end of regulation. LaMarcus Aldridge had 18 and Brandon Roy added 17 for the Trail Blazers, who had won six straight games.

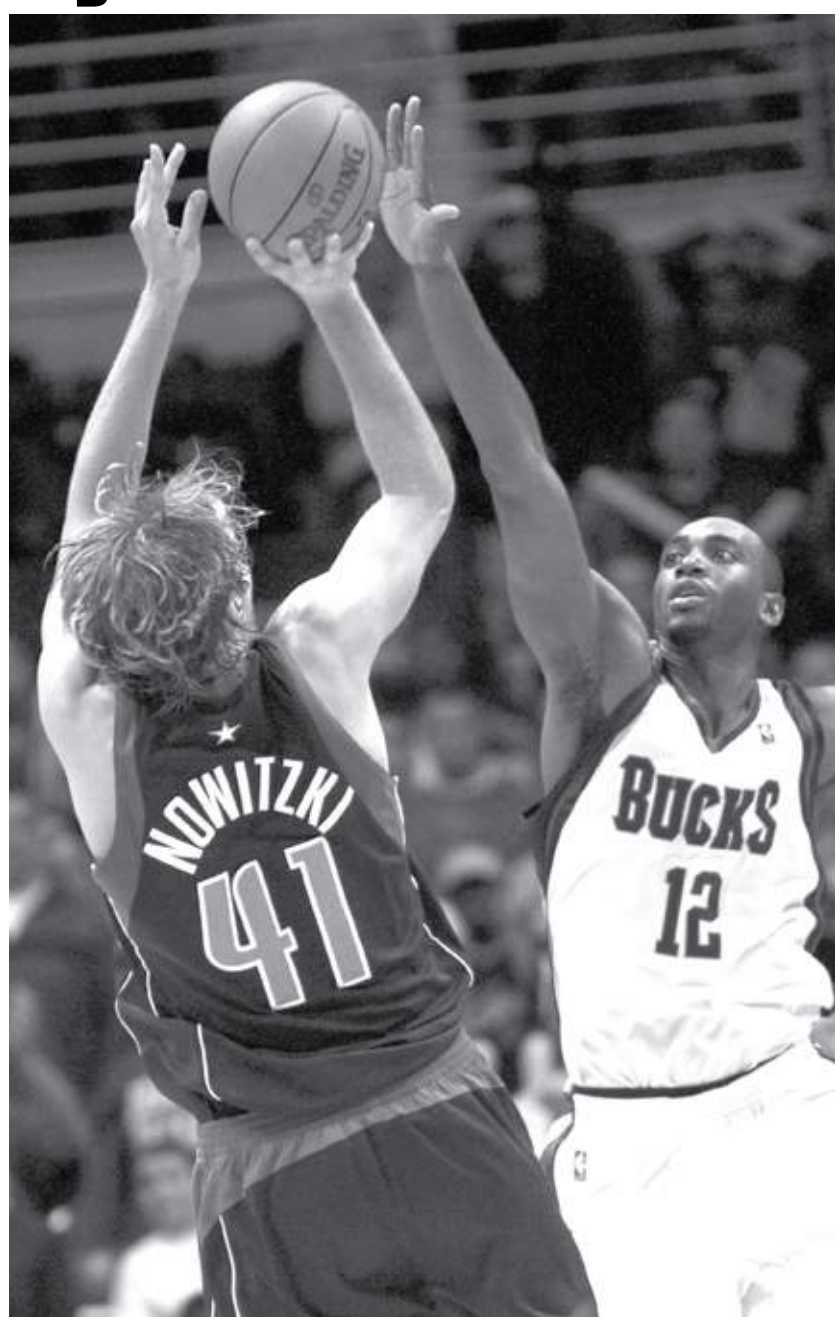
Johnson hit two 3-pointers in the fourth quarter, each leveling the score. The Hawks trailed by 12 in the third and by nine points, 67-58, entering the fourth.

Magic 97, Bobcats 91

At Orlando, Rashard Lewis had 10 points in his first game back from a suspension, leading Orlando to the victory.

Lewis looked rusty after serving a 10-game ban handed out by the NBA for testing positive for an elevated testosterone level. The All-Star forward finally found his footing late, sparking a rally that moved the Magic in front for good. Teammate Jameer Nelson finished with 16 points.

Flip Murray equaled a career high with 31 points, and Stephen Jackson had 13 points and nine rebounds for Charlotte hours after the disgruntled swingman was acquired from Golden State. Even with the new addition, the Bobcats couldn't avoid their fifth straight loss.



AP

Dallas Mavericks' Dirk Nowitzki goes up for the game-winning shot during overtime of an NBA basketball game against the Milwaukee Bucks on Monday, Nov. 16, 2009, in Milwaukee. At right is Milwaukee's Luc Richard Mbah a Moute.

Bobcats acquire disgruntled Jackson from Warriors

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP)—Stephen Jackson walked into the locker room, took one look at his newly stitched Charlotte Bobcats uniform and smiled.

It wasn't a Golden State jersey, so he was happy—for now.

The Warriors found a home for the disgruntled swingman Monday, sending him to the Bobcats in a four-player deal that pairs him with coach Larry Brown. The Bobcats traded shooting guard Raja Bell and forward Vladimir Radmanovic to the Warriors for Jackson and guard Acie Law.

"I wanted to be out pretty bad," Jackson said. "Things were going bad. I was getting blamed for everything. I wasn't seeing eye to eye with the team. I got fined in preseason, which was ridiculous. It was just a lot of things that I didn't agree with that was going on."

The deal gave Jackson his wish: a ticket out of town after his difficult relationship with Warriors coach Don Nelson, who had acknowledged since the season began the team would try to trade him.

"We can get back to playing basketball," Larry Riley said after his first major move since becoming the Warriors' general manager. "Our players had done a great job doing everything they could to play through this and not let it be a major distraction. We felt we needed to do this and move on."

Jackson was in a hotel room in Milwaukee when he got the call from his agent Monday morning. He immediately hopped on a plane to Orlando and started Charlotte's 97-91 loss to the Magic, finishing with 13 points and nine rebounds.

"We just have to play together a little bit more and figure out how we all play and where we want the ball," Jackson said. "We have a good chance of getting into that playoff run. We just can't dig ourselves too big of a hole right now."

Jackson said before the game he was looking forward to playing for Brown, and he didn't miss a chance to take a parting shot at Nelson when asked what kind of coach he looks for as a player.

"The kind of coach I want that has your back," Jackson said. "That's something that's big to me. If a coach has my back, then I don't mind playing 110 percent for him."

Now Brown, the Hall of Famer who has coached numerous difficult players, including Allen Iverson, will get a crack at the talented and polarizing Jackson.

"No matter what Stephen might say to me when I take him out, I've heard it before," Brown said. "As long as they care and as long as they want to get better and are good teammates, I'm OK."

With managing partner Michael Jordan signing off on the deal, Charlotte takes on Jackson's contract, which has three years and $28 million left after this season. Golden State inherits Radmanovic's deal, worth about $13.5 million over this season and next. Bell and Law are in the final year of their contracts.

The 6-foot-8 Jackson gives Charlotte, which was the NBA's lowest-scoring team with an 82.4 average before Monday night's loss, an immediate offensive boost. He was averaging 16.6 points in nine games before the deal, after averaging 20.7 points and 6.5 assists last season.

"He can create a shot for himself, which is something that we desperately need," Brown said.

But the 31-year-old Jackson also brings plenty of baggage, dating to when he was suspended for going into the stands in Auburn Hills, Mich., in the infamous Pacers-Pistons brawl in 2004.

He's been upset with the Warriors since their decline after he helped lead them to the second round of the 2007 playoffs. The NBA fined him $25,000 when he went public with his trade demand in August. He then got into a spat with Nelson during an exhibition game last month, leading to a two-game suspension that cost him about $139,000 in salary. He also relinquished his captain title.

Jackson had named several teams he would like to be traded to, and Charlotte was never one of them. But he said he's thrilled at the chance because it gives him an opportunity to make the playoffs, even though the Bobcats have never been to the postseason.

"I'm happy because it gives me a chance to compete and it gives me a chance to be where I want to be—and that's the playoffs, where I belong," he said. "I don't belong being home at the end of April. I belong in the playoffs."

Charlotte said it wasn't concerned with Jackson's previous transgressions.

"People's past are indeed that," GM Rod Higgins said. "Our relationship with him is going to start today."

The Bobcats said they were sad to see Radmanovic and Bell go, but were excited at the chance to get Jackson.

"We're still trying to figure things out ourselves, so he shouldn't disrupt anything," center Tyson Chandler said.

Golden State gets the 33-year-old Bell, who joins his third team in less than a year after being dealt from Phoenix to Charlotte last December. Bell, averaging 12 points, has been playing hurt this season after deciding to put off surgery to repair a partially torn ligament in his left wrist.

Bell also could provide needed veteran leadership on Golden State's young roster that includes rookie Stephen Curry and second-year pros Anthony Randolph and Anthony Morrow.

The 6-foot-10 Radmanovic was acquired last season in a trade with the Los Angeles Lakers and is an outside shooting threat that will give the Warriors more size. He had been miscast this season as Brown had him playing power forward because of depth issues.

Law is averaging 6.2 points, but Brown said he'll have to fight for minutes in Charlotte's crowded backcourt.

Brown's biggest challenge will be getting Jackson to fit into his demanding system after yet another roster shuffle for a team off to a disappointing 3-7 start. The Bobcats have made five trades involving 17 players in 11 months since Brown began his record ninth NBA head coaching job last season.

Grizzlies, Iverson part ways after only 3 games

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (AP)—The Allen Iverson experiment with the Memphis Grizzlies is over.

Memphis announced Monday that the team has ended its one-year contract with the 10-time All-Star and former league MVP in what it called a mutual agreement. Iverson began an indefinite leave of absence on Nov. 7 to deal with a personal issue after playing only three games with the Grizzlies, all in California.

"Because of personal matters that forced him to leave the team on November 7, Allen will step away from the game at this time, allowing him to focus on those matters," general manager Chris Wallace said in a statement. "As a result, we will be ending our contractual agreement with Allen, which will allow both parties to move forward. We wish Allen the best."

The Grizzlies will waive Iverson but the team had not done that as of Monday night.

Iverson's agent, Leon Rose, did not immediately return a message left by The Associated Press on his cell phone. Iverson, who announced he was headed to Memphis on his Twitter account, hasn't posted any updates there since Nov. 2 when he played his first game with the Grizzlies.

Memphis owner Michael Heisley told the AP last week he would be happy to trade Iverson to another team if a better deal came along.

Few NBA teams had shown interest in the 34-year-old guard before Memphis signed him to a one-year, incentive-laden contract on Sept. 10. Memphis fans greeted the biggest star ever to play for the Grizzlies with a big crowd for his introductory news conference and eagerly bought up his No. 3 jersey, though he wound up never playing a game on the team's home court.

Iverson didn't help himself much during his short stint with his fourth NBA team. He missed the preseason with a partially torn left hamstring and didn't debut with the Grizzlies until Nov. 2 at Sacramento.

Immediately, Iverson began talking about his distaste for coming off the bench and being on a rebuilding team filled with youth from Rudy Gay and O.J. Mayo to recent draft picks Hasheem Thabeet and DeMarre Carroll.

The four-time NBA scoring champ became the 16th player in league history to score 24,000 points in his career in his second game against Golden State. He played against the Lakers in Los Angeles, where he also met with Heisley before being given permission to take an indefinite leave.

But the Grizzlies got tired of waiting for Iverson to decide what to do next.

They signed point guard Jamaal Tinsley on Saturday for some much-needed help with the Grizzlies struggling at 2-8 this season.

Ravens blank hapless Browns, 16-0

CLEVELAND (AP)—Even after Baltimore had punished Brady Quinn, Ravens linebacker Ray Lewis got in one more vicious hit on Cleveland's quarterback.

Angered over Quinn's questionable chop block on Ravens linebacker Terrell Suggs following an interception, Lewis accused Quinn of a dirty play.

"Heck yeah it was a cheap shot," Lewis snapped after Baltimore rocked Cleveland 16-0. "When you're running down and you're looking at the quarterback going at somebody's knees who doesn't even have the ball. I want to see if he gets the same fine I got or even higher. Now this man is out four or five weeks because of some baloney like that."

For 30 minutes, the Ravens were inefficient, unproductive and disorganized.

In 17 seconds, they changed all that.

Ray Rice scored on a 13-yard run on Baltimore's first possession of the third quarter and safety Dawan Landry returned an interception of Quinn 48 yards for a touchdown on Cleveland's next play as the Ravens overcame a horrendous start and routed the hapless Browns.

The game also included two plays that could force the league to hand out fines, and it ended with Browns wide receiver Josh Cribbs being carried from the field on a stretcher following another nasty hit. He was taken to a hospital for tests. Cleveland coach Eric Mangini said Cribbs was transported as a precaution.

"He's got feeling and movement in all parts of his body," Mangini said.

The Ravens (5-4) didn't score in the opening half, when they used up their three timeouts in the first 6:15, committed silly penalties, converted just one third down and actually made the Browns (1-8) look respectable.

"I guess I agree it wasn't pretty," quarterback Joe Flacco said. "It was an ugly win, but that's the way some wins are in the NFL."

Following his second interception, Quinn dropped and rolled into Suggs' right knee, drawing a 15-yard penalty and incensing the Ravens.

Suggs limped to the locker room. It's not known how long he'll be out.

"That's an illegal blow," Lewis said. "I don't care how you want to look at it."

Quinn said he didn't hit Suggs intentionally.

"I was trying to go for the ball carrier," he said. "Suggs came across at the last second in my vision. I would never wish that upon anyone. I was upset about it on the field. We worked out in Arizona together. I couldn't be any more sorry about that. That was never the intent. I'm sorry to Terrell and the rest of their team."

Despite being down by 16, the Browns, who never crossed Baltimore's 45, were fighting for yards on the final play. Quinn threw short to Cribbs, who then lateraled to tight end Robert Royal. After he got rid of the ball, Cribbs got drilled in the chin by defensive end Dwan Edwards as the clock expired.

As Cribbs laid motionless in the middle of the field, players from both teams knelt in prayer. Royal said Cribbs was making jokes and moving his arms and legs.

Ravens defensive end Trevor Pryce questioned Mangini's motive in running a dangerous play.

"I didn't see it, but I heard it," he said of Edwards' hit on Cribbs. "With five seconds left in the game, and you're down 16-0, to throw a hook-and-lateral, what's the point of that? I'm not trying to question their coaching, it's none of my business. But you see what the result was.

"You do a hook-and-lateral play with a whole bunch of guys that are big and run fast, people are running around crazy and someone is going to get hurt."

Edwards said he wasn't trying to injure Cribbs and wasn't looking for retribution on Quinn for his hit on Suggs.

"I was just hustling to the ball," he said. "He had just pitched it and I reacted. It wasn't him that hit Suggs. I consider myself a hustle player and I tried to hustle and make a play—not let them get a score."

Pats' Belichick defends decision to go for it

FOXBOROUGH, Mass. (AP)—Bill Belichick defended his decision to go for it on fourth down as criticism mounted Monday of the call that led to the New England Patriots stunning loss. The coach hailed as one of the NFL's best was a target of columnists, talk radio callers and two of his former players. Why, they all wondered, did he gamble with a six-point lead and just over two minutes to go against the Indianapolis Colts?

The gamble failed and the Patriots lost 35-34 after leading by 17 points in the fourth quarter Sunday night.

"The same thing I said after the game," Belichick said at his regular Monday news conference. "I thought it was our best chance to win. I thought we needed to make that one play and then we could basically run out the clock. We weren't able to make it."

An average punt would have left Peyton Manning about 60 to 70 yards from the end zone, a long distance but one Manning has traveled before with little time left.

But when the Patriots gained 1 yard on fourth-and-2, his task became much easier. Manning got the ball at the New England 29-yard line and four plays later he threw a 1-yard touchdown pass to Reggie Wayne with 13 seconds left. Matt Stover's extra point was the winning margin.

Belichick was noncommittal Monday when asked if he would make the same decision again.

"You only get one chance," he said.

When that chance ended, the second guessing started.

NBC analyst Rodney Harrison, a safety for Belichick for six years who retired before this season, called it "the worst coaching decision I've ever seen Bill Belichick make."

ESPN analyst Tedy Bruschi, who retired this year after 14 seasons as a Patriots linebacker, said, "The decision to go for it would be enough to make my blood boil for weeks. ... I would look at this decision as a lack of confidence in our ability as a defensive unit to come up with a big play to win the game."

The loss dropped the Patriots to 6-3, three games behind the unbeaten Colts, and hurt their hopes for home-field advantage in the AFC playoffs and for avoiding a game in the first round. They're home against the New York Jets on Sunday.

Belichick has made plenty of aggressive calls that worked. He's led the Patriots to three Super Bowl wins this decade. Might it be unfair for critics to pounce when one gutsy call doesn't pan out?

"Everybody's entitled to their opinion out there," he said. "I respect that."

Not everyone piled on.

Colts coach Jim Caldwell, the beneficiary of Belichick's decision, held off.

"I just think that every situation is different," Caldwell said, "There are things that you have to weigh, you have to take into account, and things that are not readily available to the public, so I'm not going to question anybody's decision, especially someone who has won more Super Bowl championships than most people dream about."

It was hardly a spur of the moment decision. Belichick said he "pretty much" decided before the third-and-2 play that he would go for it on fourth down.

But when Tom Brady threw an incompletion toward Wes Welker on third down, some members of the punt team went on the field, some offensive players walked off, and the Patriots called their final timeout.

"We had a little miscommunication on that as to whether we were going to go (for the first down) or punt it," Belichick said. "That wasn't cleanly handled. Again, I'll take responsibility for that."

The Patriots had used their other two timeouts in the second half to sort things out.

Welker called the first with 12:46 left in the third quarter when he spotted the team in the wrong formation, a decision Belichick agreed with. The second came with 2:23 left in the game after a Colts kickoff because "we were heading into a series there and we just wanted to make sure that everything was right," Belichick said.

A Double Weekend & Thanksgiving Holiday

Tennis Extravaganza in Saipan

Junior Short Court Singles and Doubles and Adult Singles:
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First Matches will start at 5pm on Friday, Nov. 20, 2009
Entry Deadline: Monday, November 16
Draws Posted by: Thursday, November 19

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Entry Deadline: Friday, November 20
Draw Posted by: Monday, November 23

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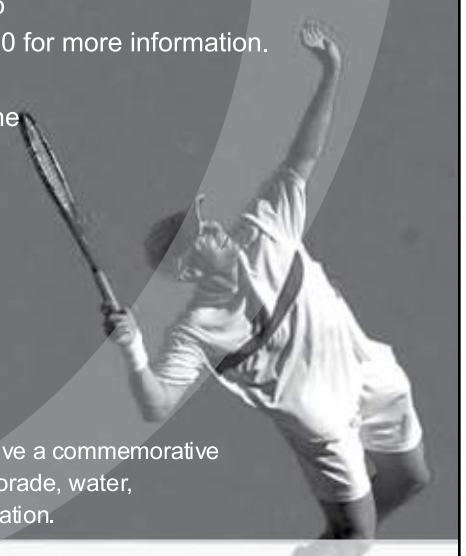
Entry form and check must be received by the entry deadline.



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ON POSSIBLE PACQUIAO-MAYWEATHER MEGA FIGHT

Fight not made, but betting line is

BOXING

LAS VEGAS (AP)—The fight hasn't been made yet, and may not ever happen. But this city's casinos are already taking bets on who will win if the Philippines' Manny Pacquiao and American Floyd Mayweather Jr. ever get into the ring.

Pacquiao, coming off his dominating win over Miguel Cotto, opened as an 8-5 favorite at sports books operated by Station Casinos, and it didn't take long for bettors to take a side. Several $20,000 bets were put down on Mayweather, forcing the line down to 7-5 in the early going, said Art Manteris, the casino operator's vice president of sports book operations.

"It's been pretty decisive in the early going," Manteris said. "I think I made the line a little too high but that's the nature of the business."

Manteris said he made Pacquiao the favorite based largely on the public perception of his big win over Cotto. Most of the early bets, he said, came from professional handicappers, who thought the line was too high.

Pacquiao promoter Bob Arum said he was ready to begin negotiations with Mayweather's promoter on a fight, while Mayweather issued a statement Monday saying he wanted to hear from Pacquiao himself that he really wants the fight.

"Tell Manny Pacquiao to be his own man and stop letting everyone, including his loudmouth trainer, talk for him," Mayweather said. "I am my own boss, speak for myself and tell it like it is. If Manny Pacquiao wants to fight me, all he has to do is step up to the plate and say it himself."

Pacquiao told The Associated Press last month he didn't think Mayweather wanted to fight him, and criticized the undefeated fighter for fighting too defensively and not trying to entertain fans.

His trainer, Freddie Roach, said after the Cotto fight that Pacquiao would be more than happy to fight Mayweather, but that Mayweather wasn't going to dictate the terms of the fight. Talks will likely be difficult, especially when it comes to what percentage of the revenues each fighter would receive.

The fight, though, has the possibility of becoming the richest ever and many in boxing assume that there is far too much money to be made for the fight not to happen.

"I think that's the fight the world wants to see," Roach said. "But if Floyd wants a 65-35 split (of the purse) he's not going to get it."

Assuming the fight can be made, it would likely take place next May. Las Vegas casinos would have the inside track on landing it, but there has been speculation that it could go somewhere like the new Dallas Cowboys stadium or even Yankee Stadium.

PIC-FINANCE

From Page 28

on the court.

The tournament started with a draw among 17 teams. The Wedding Party, which participated in the parade of teams in their "wedding outfit" with Becca Newman and Jason Schroeder as bride and groom and Chris Nelson as "officiating priest," drew a bye in the first round.

The Wedding Party, which had Linda Anastacio, Russ Quinn, Tyce and Angie Mister, Yosh and Nikki Gabaldon, and Dave and Leanne Loan as part of the entourage, then met erstwhile champion Ardija in the second round and won.

Ardija prevailed in its first match against Island Apparel before losing to The Wedding Party. Other winners in the first round were Just the Tip against Rotary Dodgers, PIC Finance vs. Off the Light, That Just Happened vs. G4S, Team DFS 670 vs. PIC House keeping, Culinary One vs. the Ideal Camouflage Team, Kadu KuKadu Ka vs. Xtreme Dodgers, and Culinary Two vs. Miller Lite Brew Crew.

In the quarterfinals, The Wedding Party was paired against Team DFS 670 and the former won, anew to advance to the semifinals. Also earning semis tickets were Just the Tip, PIC-Finance, and That Just Happened. Just the Tip won over the Ideal Camouflage Team, PIC-Finance downed Kadu Ku Kadu Ka, and That Just Happened defeated Culinary Two.

PIC-Finance and Just the Tip then arranged their championship duel after slipping past The Wedding Party and That Just Happened in the semifinals, respectively.

The runner-up Just the Tip had Dale Roberts, Rob Jordan, Nick Gross, Pete Houk, Justin Mariano, James Ehler, Cassie Halverson, Jennifer Backhaus, and Jennifer daSilva as members.

The champion team went home with an especially designed trophy, while others who made it to the Top 3 received cash prizes and gift certificates from tournament sponsors.

NO SWEEP

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It was a come-from-behind win for Aldan, as he had the lowest output in Game 1 with 121 pinfalls. Aldan started his uphill climb in Game 2 with a best score of 185 pinfalls and then followed it up with a decent score of 153 pinfalls. The eventual monthly champion sealed the win when he knocked down 160 pins in Game 4.

Williams, Manacop win

Emi Williams dominated both days of the November roll-offs to take the Budweiser Queen of the Lanes tiara.

Williams played on the first day of the roll-offs on Sunday and tallied the best score of 722 pinfalls. She came back in the second day and still ruled the event with 696 pinfalls. In the monthly roll-offs, keglers can bowl both days, but only the higher score will be counted.

Williams posted the month's best score in the first day after finishing strong, tallying 203 and 213 pinfalls in Games 3 and 4. She started slow with only 138 pinfalls in Game 1 and improved a bit in Game 2 with her 168 pinfalls.

Gloria Omechelang settled for a runner-up place with her four-game total of 689 pinfalls, while Ron Cal completed the Top 3 after recording 666 pinfalls.

Five other female keglers joined the monthly roll-offs. They were Carol McKenzie (664 pinfalls), Gigi Zapanta (598), Diane Chong (551), Linda Yarobwemal (532), and Lilian Gutierrez (471).

Simon Manacop bowled only once and his 881 pinfalls in Day 1 was unbeaten in Day 2, giving him the November King of the Lanes title.

Manacop carded more than 200 pinfalls in Games 2 (256) and 3 (245) before slowing down in Game 4 with his 189 pinfalls. He had 191 pinfalls in Game 1 and earned a 56-pinfall lead over runner-up Raymond Angeles.

Angeles tallied 825 pinfalls, moving up to second place after outclassing eventual third placer Raymond Zapanta in the last two games. Zapanta played better than Angeles in the first two games with the former scoring 420 pinfalls against the latter's 356. However, Angeles drilled 236 and 233 pinfalls in Games 3 and 4 against Zapanta's 197 and 181 to secure the second spot.

SAIPAN

From Page 28

in four different courts. One of them is Torgun Smith, who along with teammate and Guam coach Lency Tenai ruled the 9th Annual PIC/Gatorade Tennis Championships in April this year. Other Guam players competing in the inaugural netfest are those from Joe Cepeda and the Lai brothers' (David, Sam, and Peter) groups.

Saipan is expected to be led by former NCAA Division I tennis player Kirk Schuler, CNMI coach Jeff Race, Pacific Oceania juniors No. 1 player Ji Hoon Heo, and other top junior players of the Commonwealth.

The visitors will collide with Saipan bets in the junior short court singles and doubles and adults singles, which are all scheduled in the first weekend of the tournament or from Nov. 20 to 22. The second weekend will feature junior long court singles and doubles and adult doubles events from Nov. 25 to 29.

Schuler, who is the tournament director, said he is very excited to be part of this big event.

"The Tan Holdings Tennis Classic promises to be one of the biggest tennis tournaments in recent years, and will attract the area's youngest, oldest, and best tennis players. Thus, the competition will be fierce, but the environment will be friendly. Furthermore, because this tournament will attract more off-island competitors, this tournament will have a much greater level of competition—a level 10 on a scale of one to 10—than tournaments in the past," Schuler said.

"The Tan Holdings Tennis Classic will be very different from past Saipan tennis tournaments in many respects. The primary goal of the THTC is to provide a friendly and fun tennis environment for as many players and fans as possible. As a result, the tournament has involved more sponsors, invited more players (off-island players especially), and secured more tennis courts to meet this goal," he added.

Games in the two weekend tournament will be played simultaneously on the Pacific Islands Club, Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan, Hyatt Regency Saipan, and American Memorial Park tennis courts.

"There are a couple of adult players from Guam competing in the first weekend, but there will be around 30 from Guam competing in the second weekend," Schuler said.

"We have about 60 entrants thus far for the first weekend, but I expect to receive more today (yesterday's late entries). The first weekend showcases the area's future tennis stars in short court 10-and-under division events, along with the area's current tennis stars in adults skill level events," Schuler added.

Besides the girls and boys' 10-and-under singles, there will also be a co-ed 10-and-under competition in the first weekend. The adults singles is divided into four levels, namely Level 2.0. (beginners), 3.0, 4.0, and open (advanced). Players in the 40-and-above age group will also have a separate competition this weekend.

This year's Tan Holdings netfest is supported by Quality Distributors, Take Care, Mobil, Tan Siu Lin Foundation, Aon Insurance, Shirley's Coffee Shop, Continental Airlines, IT&E, Hertz, First Hawaiian Bank, Deloitte, Pacific Trading, Inc., AMS Typhoon Shutters, and NTT Docomo Pacific.

GOVT

From Page 28

pennant champion Hyatt Regency Saipan (10-1), host IT&E (10-1), NTT Docomo (7-4), Tinian (7-4), McGraw-Hill/Public School System (7-4), CPA-Accounting (6-5), and Micronesian Brokers, Inc. (5-6).

Department of Community and Cultural Affairs finished ninth with its 4-7 record and will face the last-ranked Aircraft Rescue Firefighters (0-11) in tonight's playoff game at 6:30pm. The second playoff match tonight will have the 10th-ranked Commonwealth Health Center (3-8) squaring off against the 11th-seeded Customs (2-9).

Winners of tonight's matches will then collide on Nov. 19 for the right to face the eight-ranked Bank of Guam (4-7) on Nov. 20. The victor of the Friday game will then advance to the second round and face the top-seeded Hyatt on Nov. 30.

Other pairings in the second round of the playoffs, which will have a double-elimination format, will be IT&E vs. MBI; Docomo vs. CPA; and Tinian vs. PSS.

The IT&E-MBI duel in the second round is also set for Nov. 30 after the first game between Hyatt and the team to survive the first round.

Docomo will challenge the streaking CPA-Accounting on Dec. 2 in the first game, while Tinian and PSS will meet in the second game.

CPA will enter the playoff round on a six-game winning streak, while Docomo will be coming off a 76-87 loss to eventual pennant champion Hyatt. Hyatt's 11-point victory tied the team with IT&E in the team standings, as both squads finished the regular season with a 10-1 slate. The Ray Lizama-coached Hyatt then won the tiebreak due to its 112-100 win over IT&E in the regular season.

Tinian took the No. 4 seeding after closing the regular season with back-to-back wins against CHC on Friday and MBI on Saturday. PSS dropped to fifth despite tying Docomo and Tinian due to its lowest tiebreak points. MBI took the seventh ticket and a bye in the first round after splitting its last two games. MBI routed Customs, 97-70, on Nov. 9, before bowing to Tinian on Saturday.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	8	3	.727	–
Toronto	5	5	.500	2 1/2
Philadelphia	4	6	.400	3 1/2
New York	1	9	.100	6 1/2
New Jersey	0	10	.000	7 1/2

Southeast Division

Atlanta	9	2	.818	–
Miami	7	2	.778	1
Orlando	8	3	.727	1
Charlotte	3	7	.300	5 1/2
Washington	2	7	.222	6

Central Division

Cleveland	7	3	.700	–
Milwaukee	5	3	.625	1
Indiana	4	3	.571	1 1/2
Chicago	5	4	.556	1 1/2
Detroit	5	5	.500	2

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

Dallas	8	3	.727	–
Houston	6	4	.600	1 1/2
San Antonio	4	4	.500	2 1/2
New Orleans	3	8	.273	5
Memphis	2	8	.200	5 1/2

Northwest Division

Denver	7	3	.700	–
Portland	8	4	.667	–
Oklahoma City	5	5	.500	2
Utah	4	6	.400	3
Minnesota	1	10	.091	6 1/2

Pacific Division

Phoenix	9	2	.818	–
L.A. Lakers	7	3	.700	1 1/2
Sacramento	5	4	.556	3
L.A. Clippers	4	7	.364	5
Golden State	3	6	.333	5

Yesterday's Games

Orlando 97, Charlotte 91
Atlanta 99, Portland 95, OT
Dallas 115, Milwaukee 113, OT

NFL STANDINGS

AMERICAN CONFERENCE

East

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
New England	6	3	0	.667	259	150
Miami	4	5	0	.444	218	227
N.Y. Jets	4	5	0	.444	199	158
Buffalo	3	6	0	.333	140	210

South

Indianapolis	9	0	0	1.000	252	142
Jacksonville	5	4	0	.556	181	220
Houston	5	4	0	.556	215	188
Tennessee	3	6	0	.333	189	255

North

Cincinnati	7	2	0	.778	198	147
Pittsburgh	6	3	0	.667	207	157
Baltimore	5	4	0	.556	222	154
Cleveland	1	8	0	.111	78	225

West

Denver	6	3	0	.667	167	151
San Diego	6	3	0	.667	237	202
Kansas City	2	7	0	.222	142	215
Oakland	2	7	0	.222	88	217

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

East

Dallas	6	3	0	.667	224	169
Philadelphia	5	4	0	.556	242	184
N.Y. Giants	5	4	0	.556	232	204
Washington	3	6	0	.333	140	171

South

New Orleans	9	0	0	1.000	331	197
Atlanta	5	4	0	.556	221	194
Carolina	4	5	0	.444	176	215
Tampa Bay	1	8	0	.111	157	256

North

Minnesota	8	1	0	.889	271	184
Green Bay	5	4	0	.556	232	179
Chicago	4	5	0	.444	186	201
Detroit	1	8	0	.111	143	264

West

Arizona	6	3	0	.667	229	184
San Francisco	4	5	0	.444	184	180
Seattle	3	6	0	.333	187	198
St. Louis	1	8	0	.111	100	249

Yesterday's Game

Baltimore 16, Cleveland 0

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOCAL SCORES

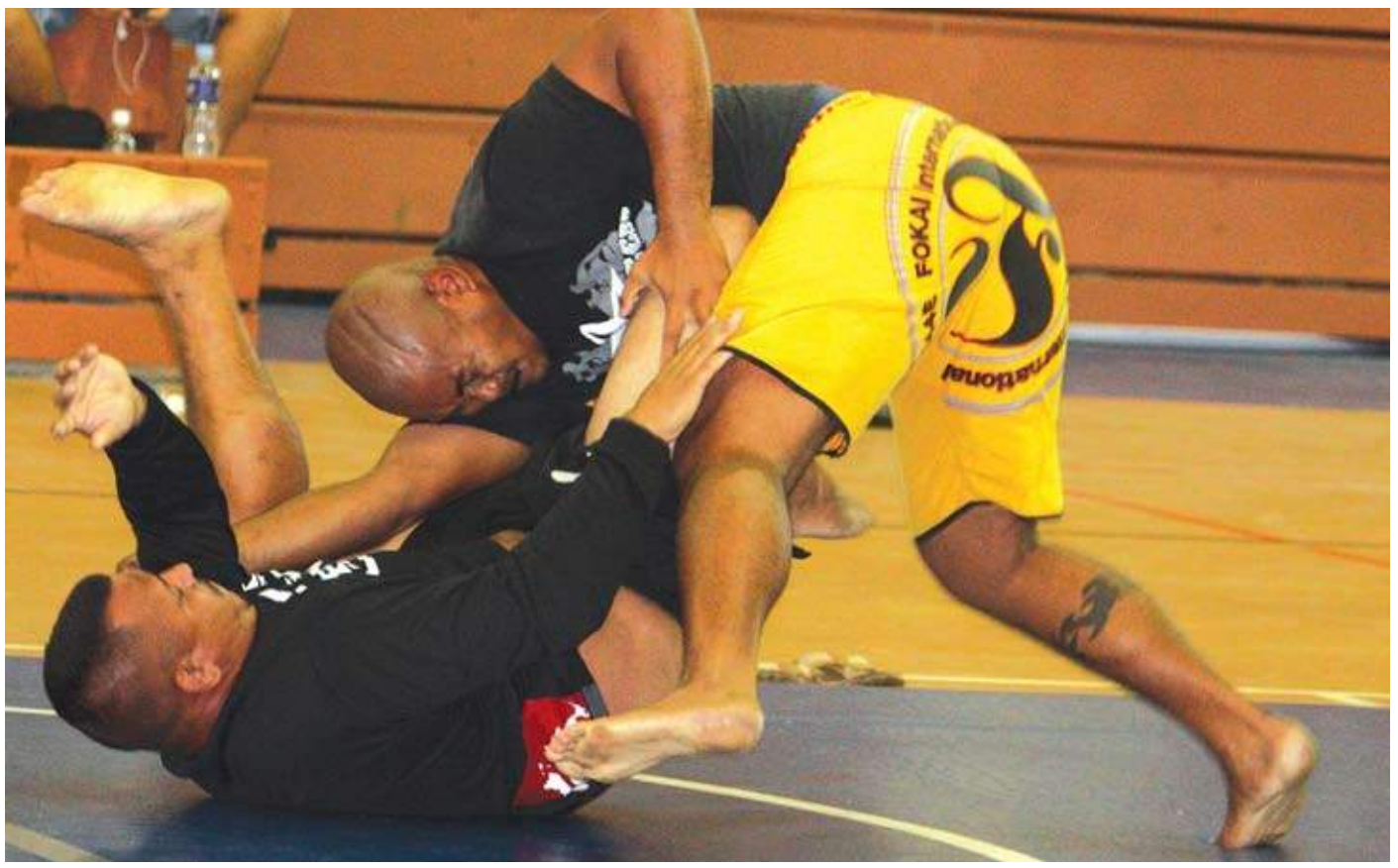
GOVT/BIZ CAGE STANDINGS (Final)

x-Hyatt	10	1
x-IT&E	10	1
x-Docomo	7	4
x-Tinian	7	4
x-PSS	7	4
x-CPA	6	5
x-MBI	5	6
y-BOG	4	7
y-DCCA	4	7
y-CHC	3	8
y-Customs	2	9
y-ARFF	0	11

x- draw bye in first round
y- fight for No. 8 spot

Art of War 4 All Island Grappling/Submissions Challenge 2009

PHOTOS By ROSELYN B. MONROYO

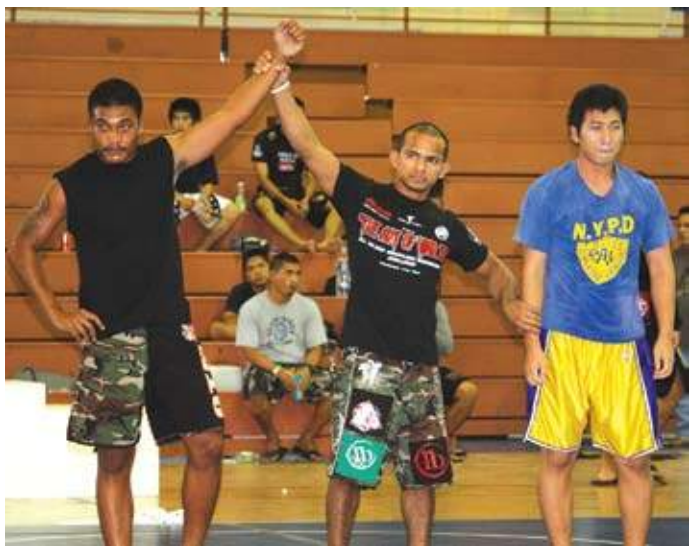


Slade Adelbai, right, tries to pin down John Aguon in their preliminary fight in the heavyweight class.

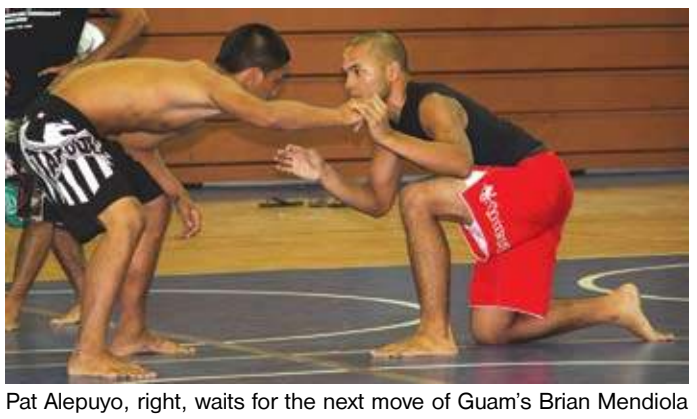
Guam's Brian Mendiola locks Pat Alepuyo's head, but the former later lost in the lightweight division finals in the Art of War 4 All Island Grappling/Submissions Challenge 2009, on Saturday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Paolo Sangalang, top, and Jordan Ogo, down, are tangled up during their bronze medal fight in the bantamweight division.

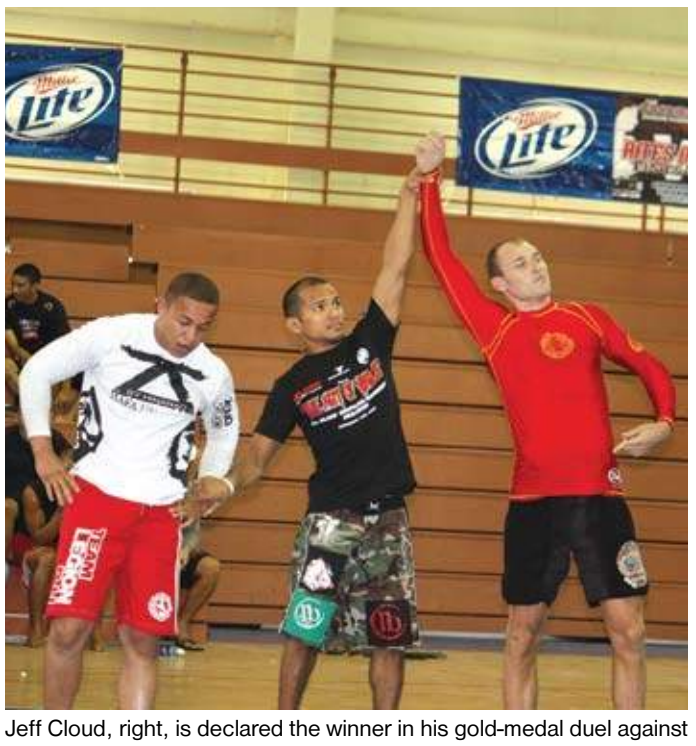
Jacob Han, grimaces, as he is held down by Nate Untalan in their heavyweight division duel.



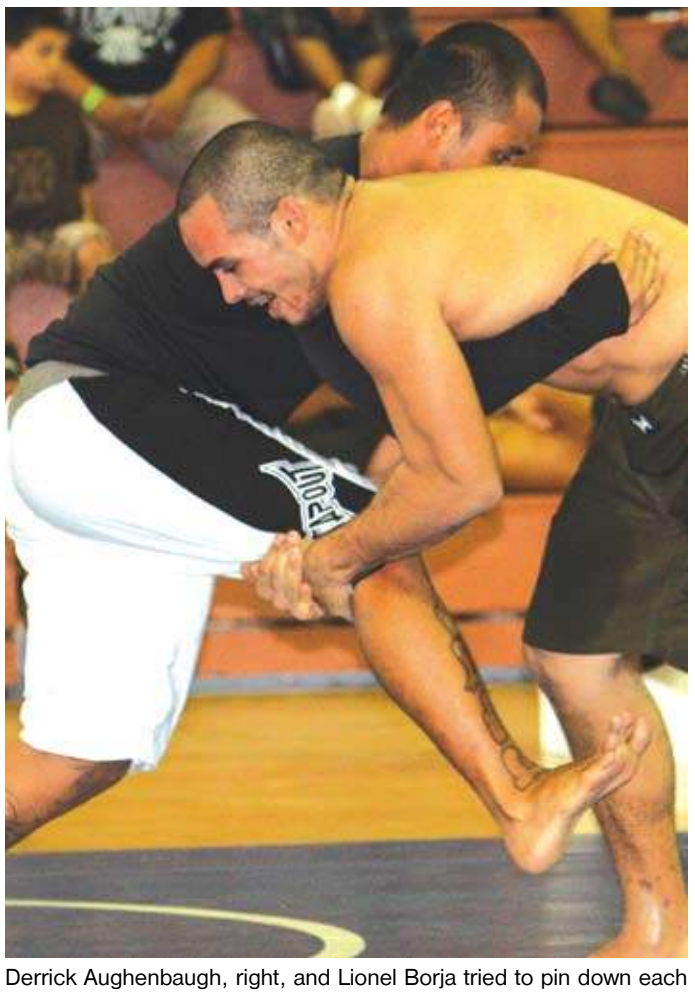
A Trench Tech referee raises the arm of bronze medal winner Jerome Norita, who beat Max Kim in the lightweight class.



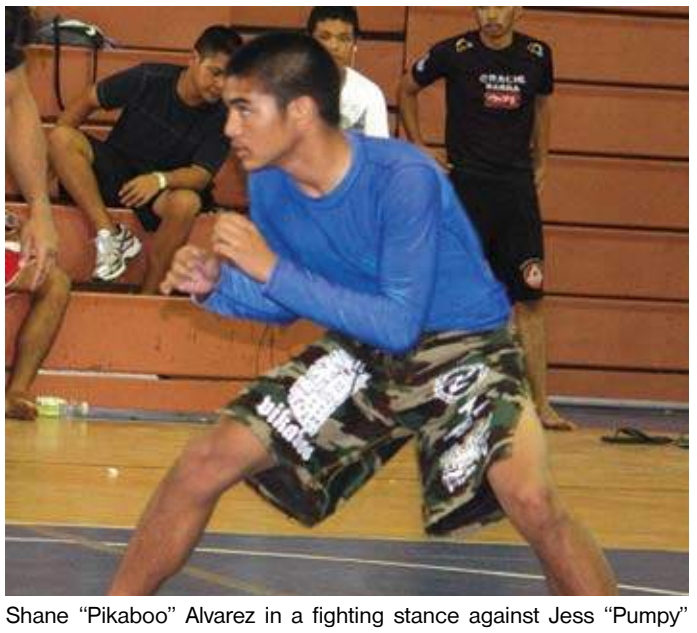
Pat Alepuyo, right, waits for the next move of Guam's Brian Mendiola during their gold-medal fight in the lightweight division.



Jeff Cloud, right, is declared the winner in his gold-medal duel against Tinian's Keli Manglona in the middleweight class.



Derrick Aughenbaugh, right, and Lionel Borja tried to pin down each other during their preliminary fight in featherweight class.



Shane "Pikaboo" Alvarez in a fighting stance against Jess "Pumpy" Manglona during their bantamweight finals bout.

Ron Chisato, left, helps Syl Teregeyo stand up after their middleweight fight.

Mavs' Nowitzki hits fallaway for OT winner

Dirk Nowitzki hit a fallaway 18-footer as time expired in overtime to give the Dallas Mavericks a 115-113 victory over the Milwaukee Bucks on Monday night.

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Saipan Tribune
Sports

Fight not made, but betting line is

The fight hasn't been made yet, and may not ever happen. But this city's casinos are already taking bets on who will win if the Philippines' Manny Pacquiao and American Floyd Mayweather Jr. ever get into the ring.

26

PIC-Finance tops dodgeball tourney

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Members of The Wedding Party played in the 2009 PIC Fall Dodgeball Tournament in their "wedding outfit," besting 16 other teams in the costume competition. Inset, John Ricafort of eventual champion PIC-Finance prepares to throw to Off The Lights during their preliminary game on Saturday on the PIC tennis court.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Pacific Islands Club's Finance Department reigned supreme in its own turf, beating Just the Tip in the finals of the 2009 PIC Fall Dodgeball Tournament on Saturday on the PIC tennis court.

PIC-Finance's smaller, but quicker crew prevailed over the taller, but easier target bets of Just The Tip to rule the weekend tournament that drew teams from the host hotel, private companies, group of friends, and even off-island participants.

The eventual champion team was composed of John Ricafort, Jesse Tenorio, Rueben Olgeril, Alphonsus Temael, Phil George, Anne Capelle, Vicky Benavente, Anna Villadiego, Peter Babauta, and Mar Flores.

The weekend event had a single-elimination format with each match played for three minutes. Each team is allowed to have 10 players on the court and the squad that have more players left standing after three minutes wins the game. A match can also end in less than three minutes if one team runs out of players

See PIC-FINANCE on Page 26

Saipan, Guam netters to relive rivalry

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Saipan and Guam will relive their rivalry this weekend through the Inaugural Tan Holdings Tennis Classic.

Around 40 players from Guam, the biggest number of participants so far to grace a tournament on Saipan, will be competing in the two-weekend tournament that will be played

See SAIPAN on Page 26

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Kirk Schuler, seen here serving in a local tournament early this year, is the tournament director for this weekend's Inaugural Tan Holdings Tennis Classic.

No sweep for Zapanta, Aldan rules November roll-off

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Raphael Zapanta's hopes for a sweep in the 2009 season of the Fiji Water Prince/Princess of the Lanes Tournament ended on Sunday, as he failed to show up for the November roll-off.

Zapanta, who won the first 10 monthly roll-offs, was sick and could not make it to the weekend tournament at the Capital Bowling Center, leaving five other youth bowlers to contest the November title. Manuel Joseph Aldan capitalized on Zapanta's absence and took the November Prince title with his four-game total of 619 pinfalls. Aldan led by only three pinfalls against runner-up Marion McKenzie, who carded 616 pinfalls. The three other youth keglers who joined the monthly tournament were Leeanne Yarobwemal (612), Nikko Gutierrez (581), and Donald Hockett (502).

See NO SWEEP on Page 26

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

November Prince of the Lanes winner Manuel Joseph Aldan is flanked by runner-up Marion McKenzie, right, and Leanne Yarobwemal.

Govt caging playoffs start tonight

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The playoffs in the IT&E Inter-Government/Business Basketball League will begin tonight at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium with five teams battling for the remaining ticket to the second round.

The Top 7 squads in the 12-team field automatically advanced to the second round, while the eighth to 12th place teams will duel for the No. 8 spot. Drawing a bye in the first round were

See GOVT on Page 26

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

CPA-Accounting's Ed Diaz is seen here dribbling out of the defense of Bank of Guam players during their game in the regular season of the government/business caging, which will start its playoff round tonight at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.